赤坂アカ

Akasaka Aka

instant bullet

インスタントバレット

4

If You've Ever Said You're Scared

電撃コミックス NEXT

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4

If You've Ever Said You're Scared

Chapter 15

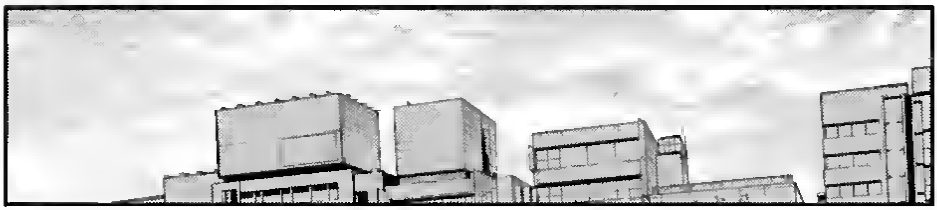
Chapter 15: First Love in the Past and Future (~~A~~•B)

...SO THAT'S IT.
THIS WAS THE WITCH'S
TRUE GOAL.

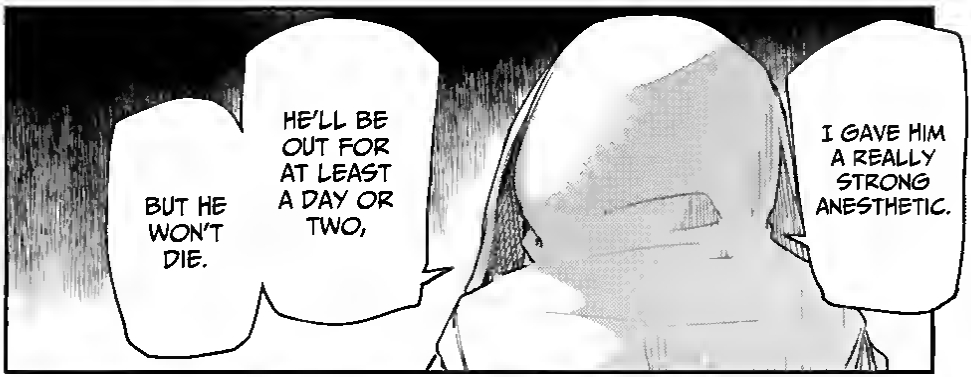
EVERYONE, RETREAT!!
IROHA!! STEAL FUKASE'S VISION!!
YOU CHEATING PIECES OF SHIT!!
!!
WHERE DID YOU GO!!?

YOU'LL DESTROY HER BODY!!
FUKASE, CALM DOWN!

FUKASE.
SORRY,
カリ…
ビキ
ビキ



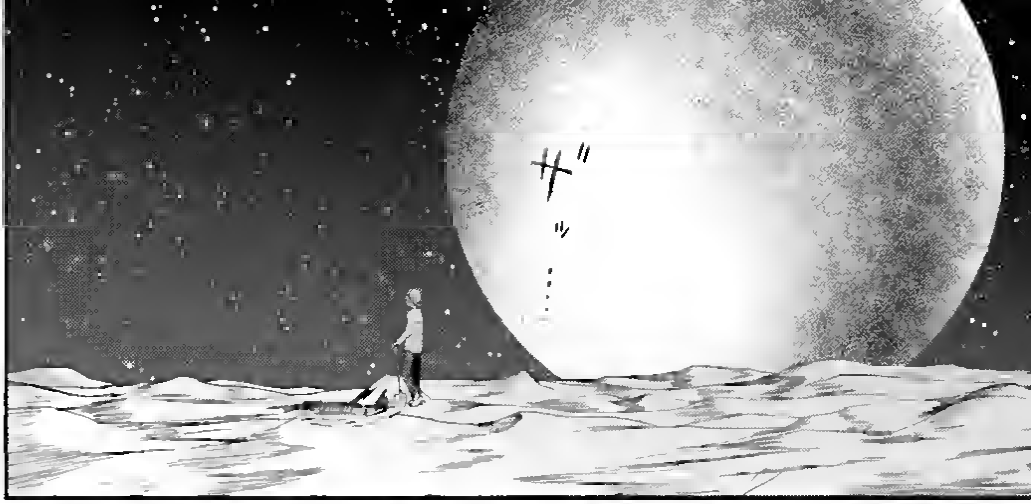
IS HE... OKAY?


I GAVE HIM A REALLY STRONG ANESTHETIC.
HE'LL BE OUT FOR AT LEAST A DAY OR TWO,
BUT HE WON'T DIE.

WE SHOULD GIVE HER
A PROPER BURIAL.

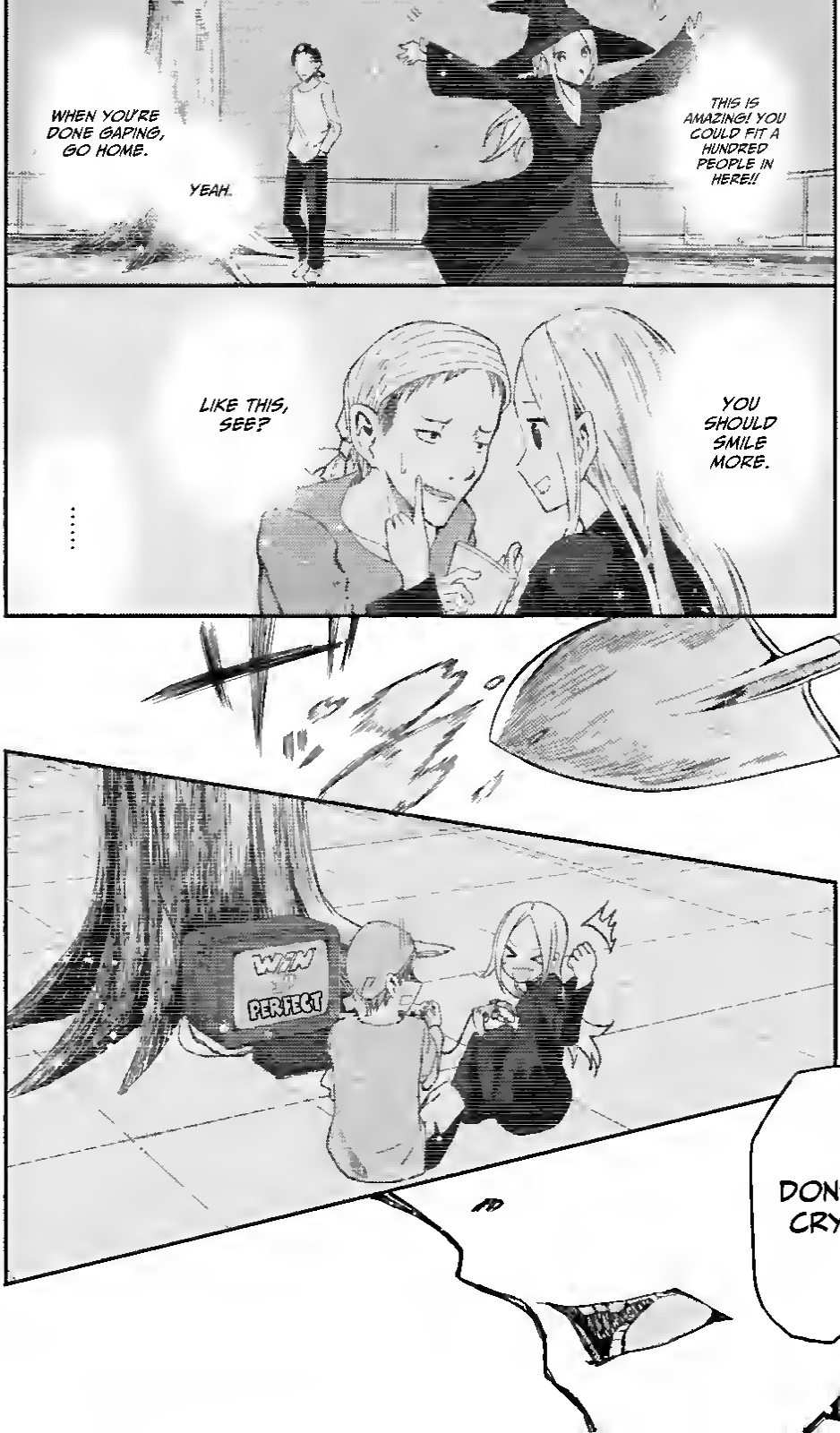
OKAY...
THEN BEFORE HE WAKES UP,

YOU...
KNEW THIS WOULD HAPPEN...
YOU'RE...
REALLY CALM ABOUT THIS.
ガチャ
I ASKED HER A FEW THINGS.
...JUST A FEW.
WELL,
I'VE KNOWN HER THE LONGEST OUT OF ALL OF US.
I'LL HANDLE THE REST.
キィ...
.....



YOU DID GREAT.
YOU DID YOUR BEST UNTIL THE VERY END.

HUH? THIS AIN'T NO PLACE FOR KIDS.
IS THIS YOUR SECRET BASE?
LET ME IN TOO.
OKAY, OKAY, JUST SHUT UP.
NO MORE DINE-AND-DASHING, OKAY?


WHEN YOU'RE DONE GAPING, GO HOME.
YEAH.
THIS IS AMAZING! YOU COULD FIT A HUNDRED PEOPLE IN HERE!!
LIKE THIS, SEE?
YOU SHOULD SMILE MORE.
.....
WOW PERFECT
AND
DON'T CRY.

DON'T CRY...
YOU'RE LIKE THEIR BIG BROTHER.
SO YOU'LL NEED TO PROTECT THEM WHEN I'M GONE.
I CAN'T.
I CAN'T DO IT.
I CAN'T BE LIKE YOU...

YOU WERE GOING TO TEACH ME SO MANY MORE THINGS...
HOW...
AM I...
SUPPOSED TO SMILE!?

RAGE.

I HAVE TO FEEL
LIKE I FELT THEN.
MORE RAGE.
MORE HATRED.

OHHH.
IF IT ISN'T FUKASE.
PERFECT. I'VE BEEN LOOKIN' FOR A SANDBAG.
YOU'LL JUST SIT BACK AND TAKE IT WHILE HE BEATS YOU, WON'T YA?

YEAH.
THIS REALLY IS PERFECT.
カリ
カリ
FUKASE!

FUKASE!!
WHAT THE HELL ARE YOU DOING!?
I NEED TO BE MADDER.
THIS ISN'T ENOUGH.
IF I FORGET WHAT THIS ANGER FEELS LIKE...
WITHOUT HAVING DONE ANYTHING...
I COULDN'T DO A THING AGAIN.
THEN I'LL BE ACCEPTING THAT I CAN'T DO SHIT.

I...
CAN'T...
TELL ME, MOROKI.
SHOULD I JUST NOT DO ANYTHING?
I DON'T KNOW WHAT I SHOULD DO.
TELL ME, MOROKI.
WHAT CAN I DO
FOR THEM?

DON'T BE AN IDIOT, FUKASE.
HOW THE HELL
SHOULD I KNOW THAT?

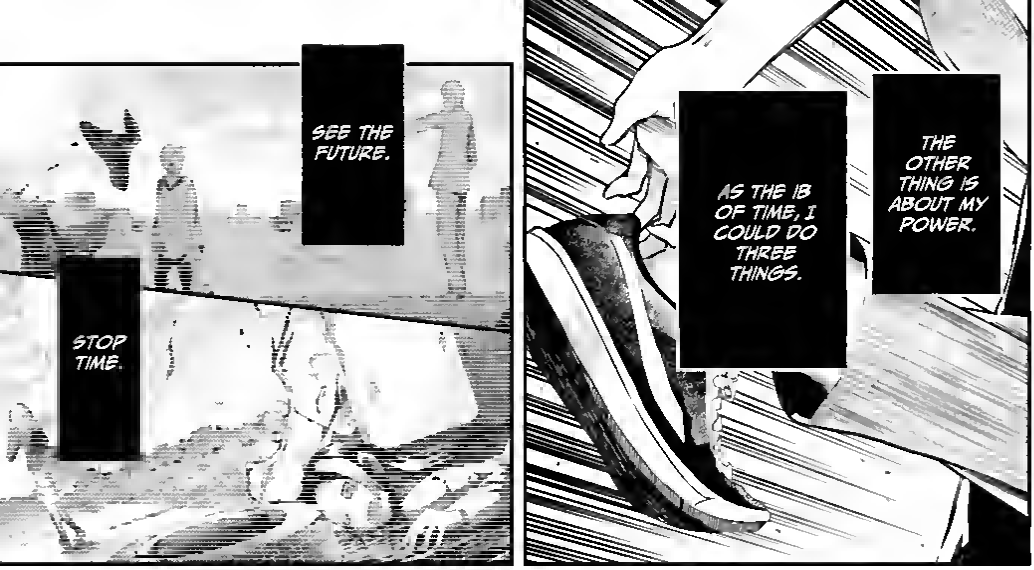
ゴソ

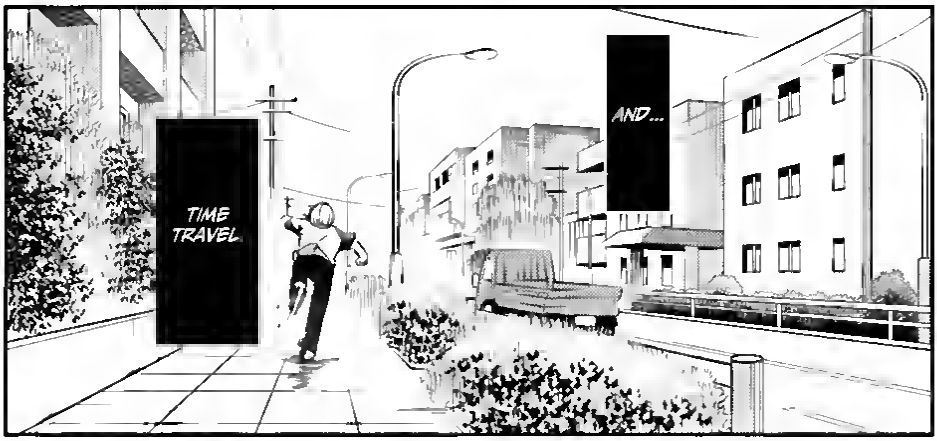
DAMN, THIS REEKS.
I WAS SERIOUSLY WEARING THIS?

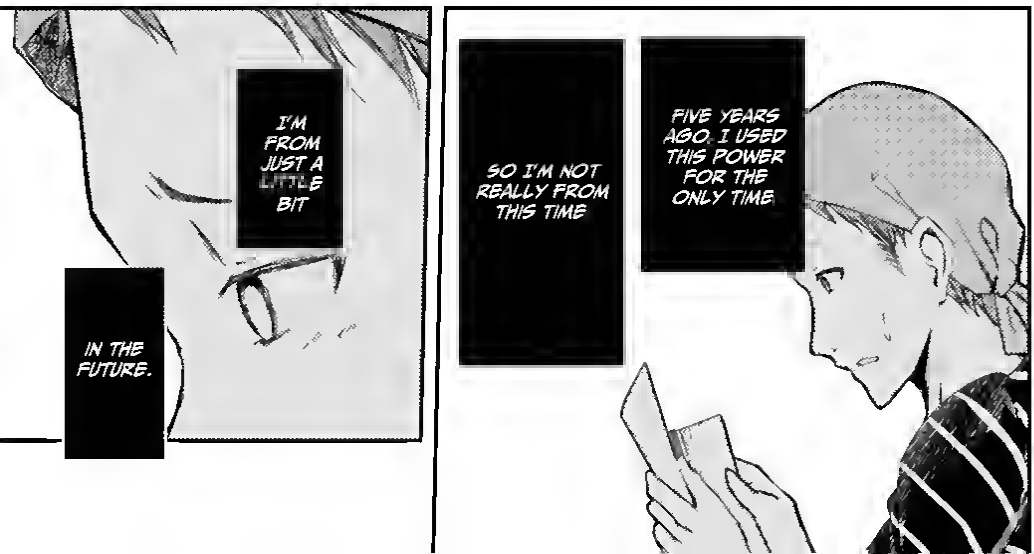
はぁ……
ピッ
MAY AS WELL JUST THROW IT OUT...

KURO

THERE ARE TWO THINGS I NEED TO TELL YOU.


SEE THE FUTURE.
STOP TIME.
AS THE IB OF TIME, I COULD DO THREE THINGS.
THE OTHER THING IS ABOUT MY POWER.


TIME TRAVEL.
AND...


I'M FROM JUST A LITTLE BIT
IN THE FUTURE.
SO I'M NOT REALLY FROM THIS TIME
FIVE YEARS AGO, I USED THIS POWER FOR THE ONLY TIME

TO THE DAY OF THAT FIRE.
8 August 2003
2008 Calendar
SOMETHING HAPPENED WHEN I WAS TEN,
AND I TRAVELED FROM MY OWN TIME
TO FIVE YEARS AGO. TO AUGUST 21, 2003.
WELL,
I'VE BEEN LIVING IN THIS TIME EVER SINCE THEN.
THAT PART DOESN'T REALLY MATTER
THE IMPORTANT PART
IS WHAT I'M ABOUT TO TELL YOU.
ABOUT THE GIRL I LEFT BEHIND.

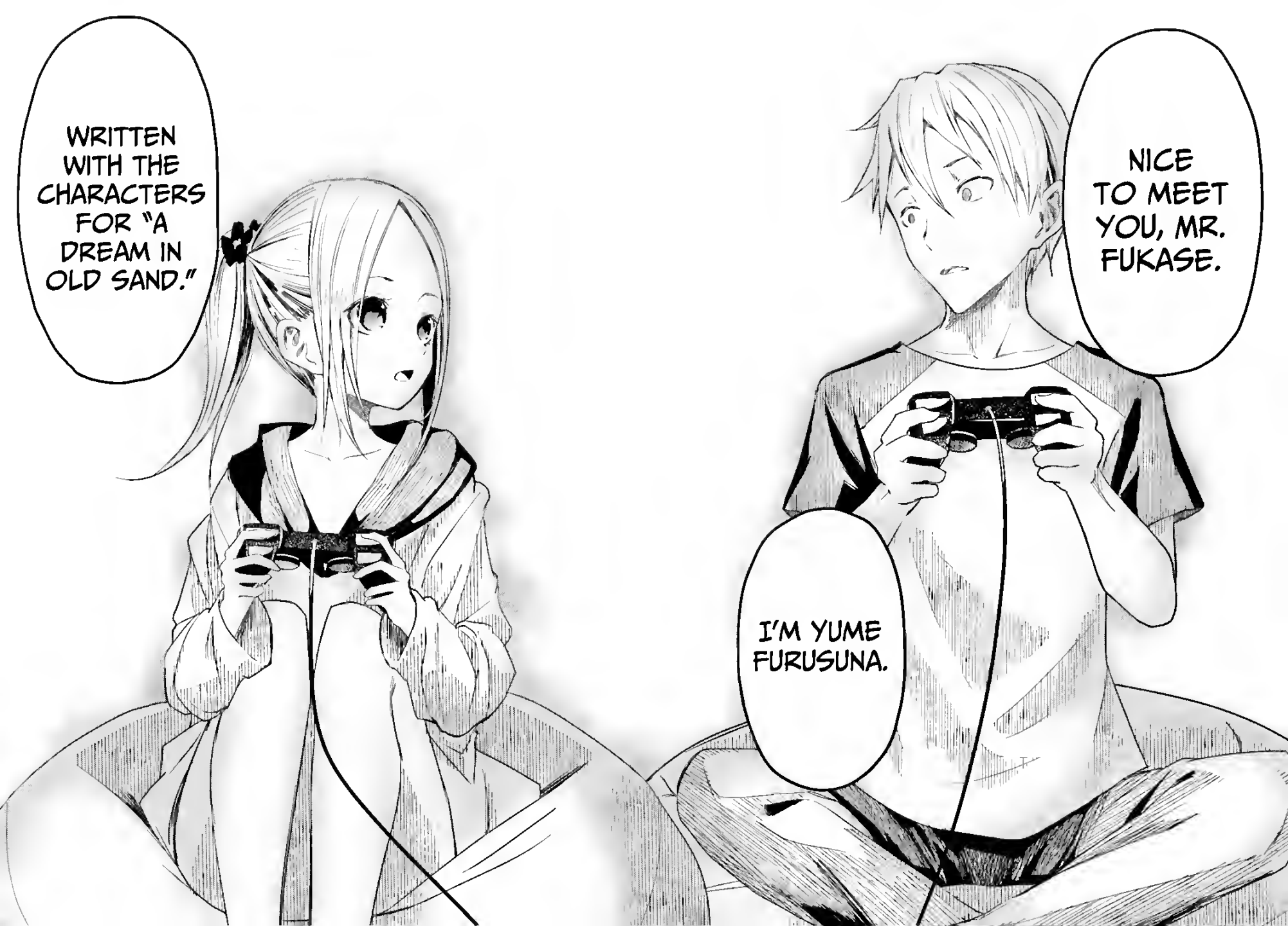
AND NO ONE TO COME SAVE US.
WE HAD NOTHING.
NO PARENTS. NO FRIENDS.

SO I HAD TO SAVE MYSELF.

YOU UNDERSTAND WHAT I'M GETTING AT.
I HOPE

BAM
POW
POW
WANNA PLAY?
I'VE GOT A SECOND CONTROLLER.
GRAAH
WHAM
SHE JUST WANTED
TO CAUSE SOME TROUBLE.
YOU DON'T NEED TO FEEL RESPONSIBLE FOR WHAT HAPPENED TO HER.
SHE MADE HER DECISION A LONG TIME AGO.

I'M SORRY.
BECAUSE THIS..
WAS SOMETHING I DID.
SO I'M THE ONE WHO SHOULD APOLOGIZE TO YOU.
ARE YOU...
LIKE THAT?
YEAH.
LIKE THAT.


WRITTEN WITH THE CHARACTERS FOR "A DREAM IN OLD SAND."
NICE TO MEET YOU, MR. FUKASE.
I'M YUME FURUSUNA.

IF IT'S EASIER TO REMEMBER, YOU CAN JUST CALL ME
"THE NINE-YEAR-OLD WITCH."
SO KURO...
I HAD NO ONE TO RELY ON BUT MYSELF.
PLEASE WATCH OVER ME.

MR. FUKASE,
THERE'S A BEAM COMING.
OH.
IT HIT.
WOW.
MAN.

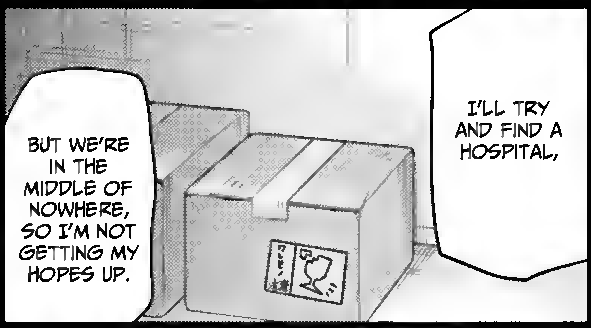
MR. FUKASE,
YOU REALLY SUCK AT GAMES.

KURO,
ARE YOU REALLY GONNA STAY HERE?

ep.0-2

SORRY TO LEAVE YOU ALL ALONE.

YEAH.
I CAN'T JUST LEAVE IROHA IN THIS TOWN AND GO OFF ON MY OWN.

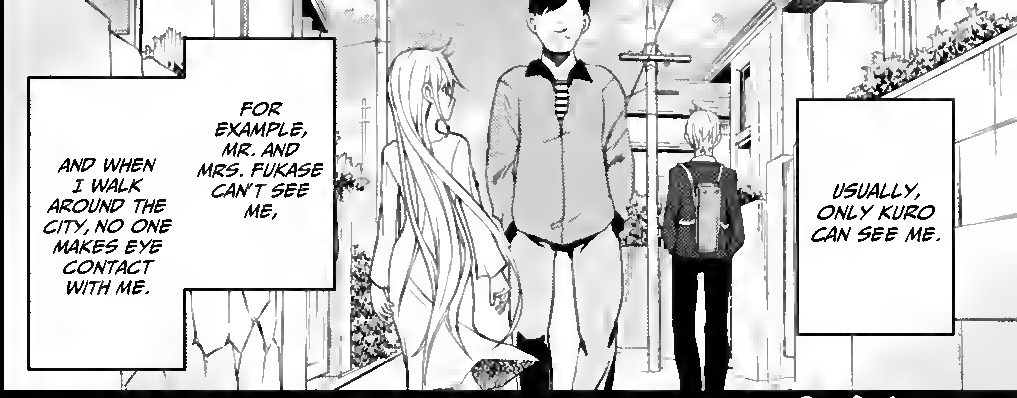

I'LL TRY AND FIND A HOSPITAL,
BUT WE'RE IN THE MIDDLE OF NOWHERE, SO I'M NOT GETTING MY HOPES UP.

IT'S FINE.
DON'T WORRY.

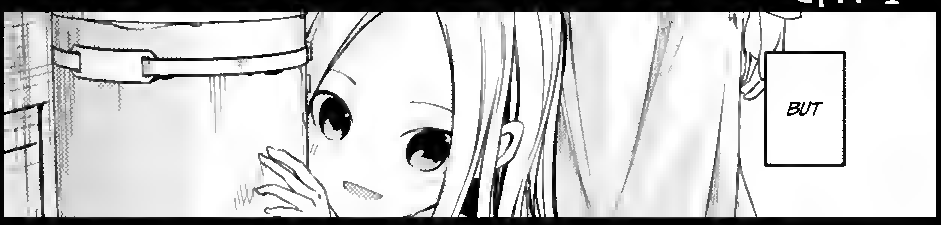
Extra Chapter

alternative

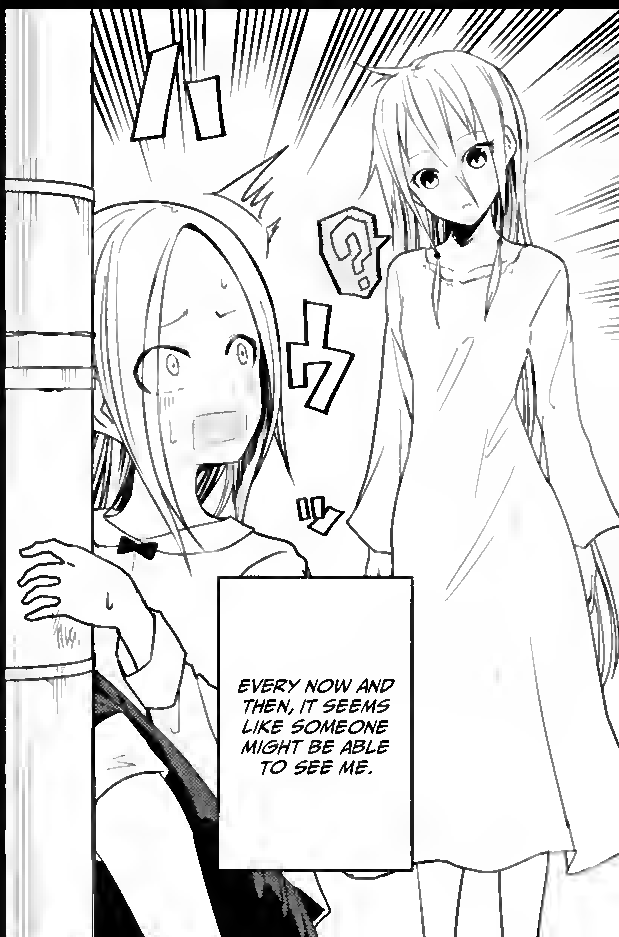
THE NEW NAME KURO AND IROHA TOOK ON
AFTER BEING ADOPTED BY THE FUKASE COUPLE
704
FUKASE
"FUKASE."
THIS IS THE FUKASES' HOUSE.
AND TWO IMAGINARY GIRLS
A MESSED UP HOME TO ONE BOY


USUALLY, ONLY KURO CAN SEE ME.
FOR EXAMPLE, MR. AND MRS. FUKASE CAN'T SEE ME,
AND WHEN I WALK AROUND THE CITY, NO ONE MAKES EYE CONTACT WITH ME.

ep.4-1

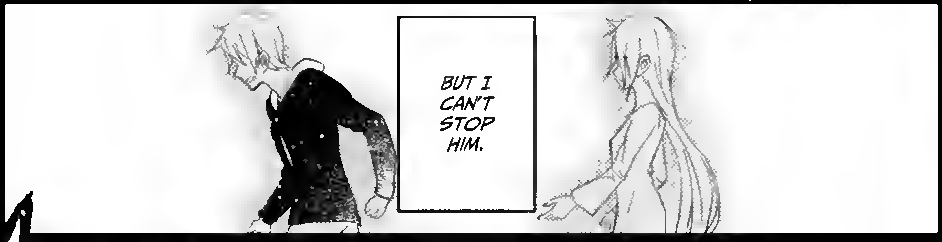

BUT

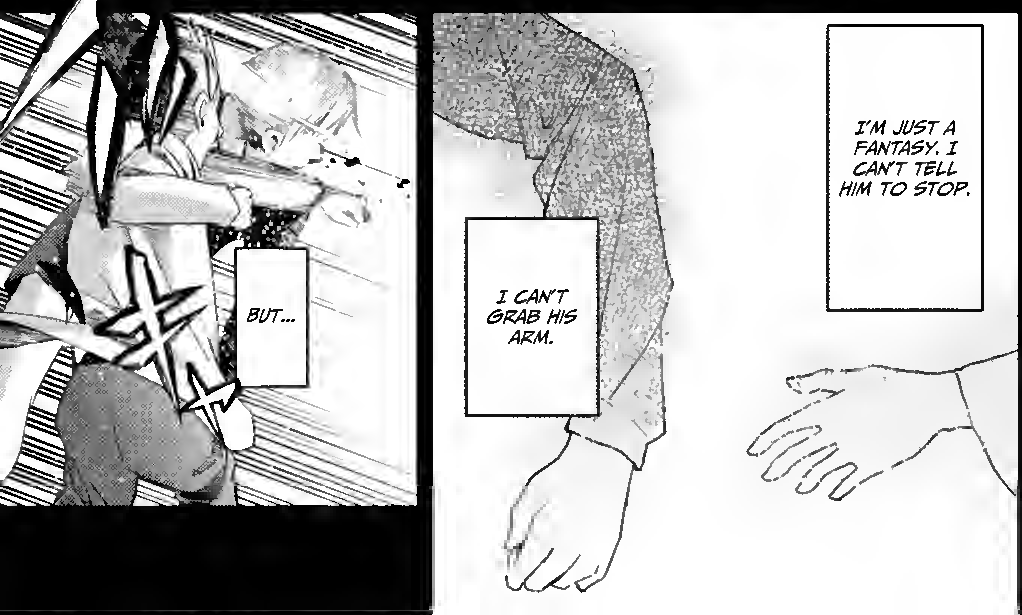
ピュー
MAYBE
I'M NOT A FANTASY, BUT SOME KIND OF GHOST.
I DON'T EVEN KNOW WHAT I AM.
IT'S A LITTLE SCARY.


ハ
?
カ
EVERY NOW AND THEN, IT SEEMS LIKE SOMEONE MIGHT BE ABLE TO SEE ME.

I WISH HE'D STOP.
I'M ALWAYS WORRIED HE'LL GET HURT.
KURO GETS INTO A LOT OF FIGHTS.

ep.1-1

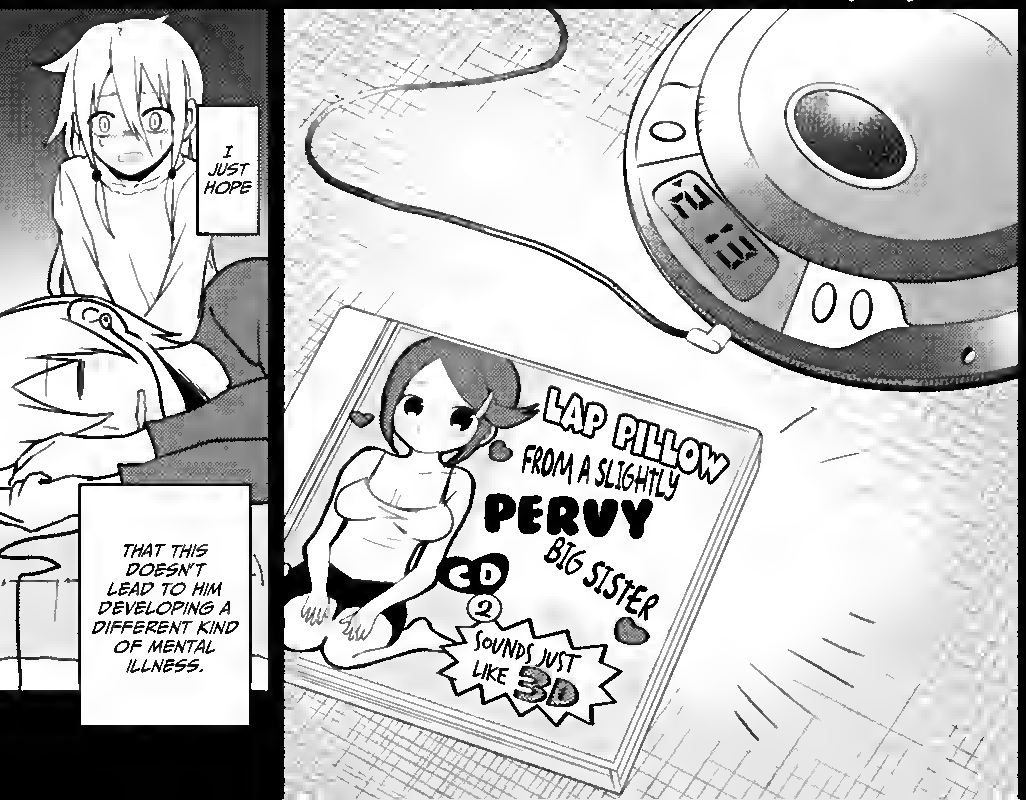

BUT I CAN'T STOP HIM.


BUT...
I CAN'T GRAB HIS ARM.
I'M JUST A FANTASY. I CAN'T TELL HIM TO STOP.

WHEN HE'S FIGHTING,
HE SEEMS HAPPY.
IT'S LIKE HURTING PEOPLE
IS THE ONLY WAY HE FEELS HE CAN COMMUNICATE WITH THEM.
ALL I CAN DO IS WATCH

KURO LISTENS TO MUSIC WHILE HE SLEEPS.
HE HAD A HARD TIME FALLING ASLEEP UNTIL RECENTLY,
BUT NOW HE SLEEPS LIKE A ROCK
I'M REALLY GLAD.
THERE WERE TIMES WHEN EVEN THE DRUGS THE DOCTOR GAVE HIM WEREN'T ENOUGH TO LET HIM SLEEP,
SO THIS NEW HABIT HAS BEEN THE BIGGEST IMPROVE-MENT YET.

ep. 10-1

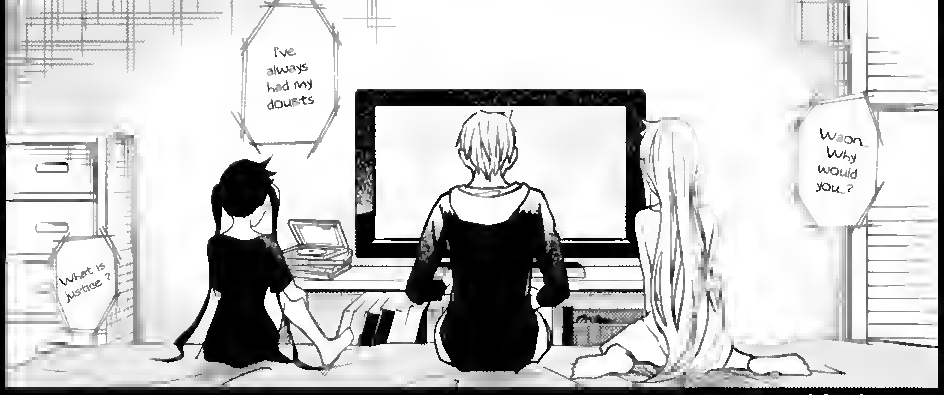

I JUST HOPE
THAT THIS DOESN'T LEAD TO HIM DEVELOPING A DIFFERENT KIND OF MENTAL ILLNESS.
LAP PILLOW FROM A SLIGHTLY PERVY BIG SISTER
CD 2
SOUNDS JUST LIKE 3D

ep.6-1
KURO GOES TO THE HOSPITAL EVERY WEEKEND.
TO VISIT IROHA,
AND...
TO BE EXAMINED HIMSELF.
INSOMNIA AND FLASH-BACKS.
THE HUMAN HEART IS A COMPLICATED THING
EVEN THE DOCTORS DON'T FULLY UNDERSTAND IT.
I'M JUST A FANTASY,
BUT I LIKE TO THINK
THAT I HAVE A HEART TOO.

TOIRO,
DOES IT HURT FOR YOU?
ep. 8-1
.....
IROHA NEVER TALKS IN FRONT OF KURO,
BUT SOMETIMES SHE TALKS TO ME.
SHE'S MY SUPPORT.
IT DOESN'T HURT FOR ME
BECAUSE I HAVE YOU.

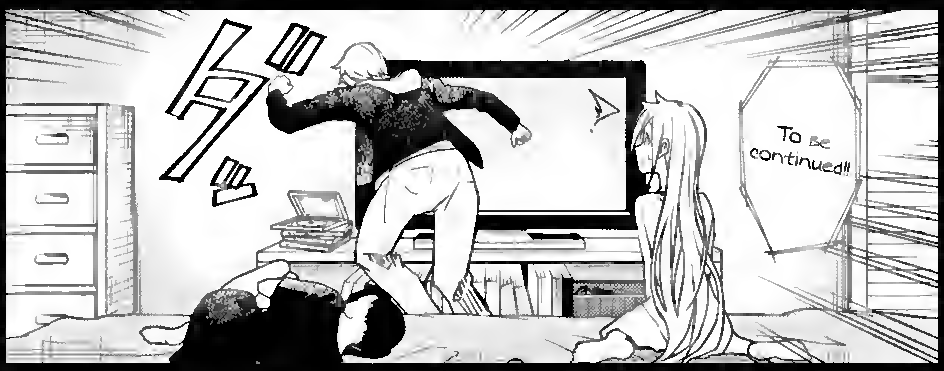
ep.0-1
SHE ALWAYS WAS.
バン
ガタッ!!
クスン…
もぐ…

ボト
ボト
COME ON...
にっ
もぐ
もぐ


I've always had my doubts
What is justice?
Waon... Why would you...?

ep. 11-1

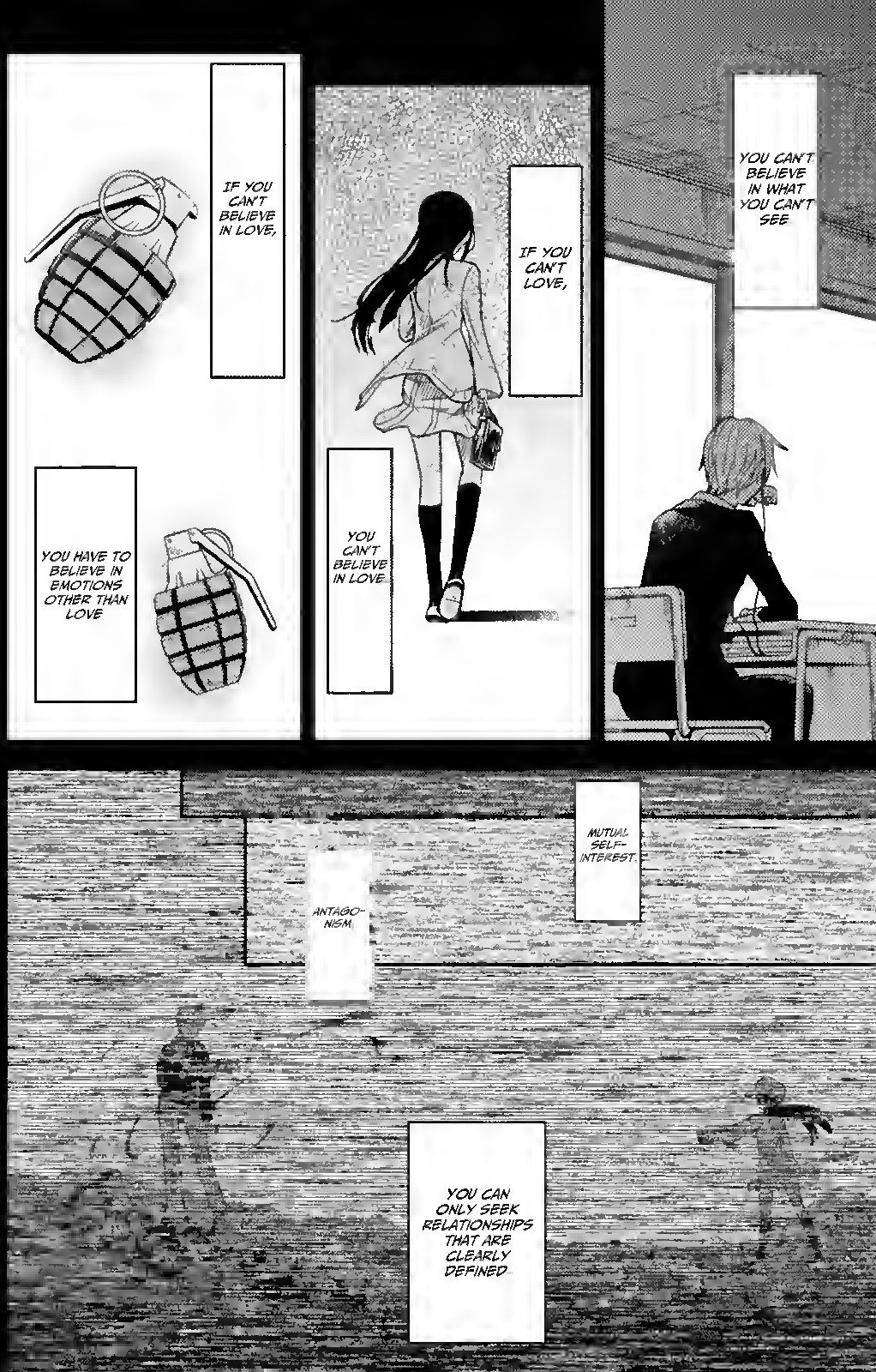
So I can protect you!
I have to become stronger!


To be continued!!

ポッ
ポッ
ポッ
……
THANKS, TOIRO.
……
……
Zzz

ep. 13-1
スル…

DO LONELY PEOPLE HATE OTHERS?
BECAUSE YOU SEEK REAL RELATION SHIPS.
YOU CAN'T BELIEVE IN UNCONDI TIONAL ONES.
YOU CAN'T HAVE FRIENDS.
BECAUSE YOU SEEK PEOPLE,
YOU CAN'T KEEP PEOPLE AT A DISTANCE
YOU SEARCH FOR MEANING IN RELATION SHIPS.


IF YOU CAN'T BELIEVE IN LOVE,
YOU HAVE TO BELIEVE IN EMOTIONS OTHER THAN LOVE
IF YOU CAN'T LOVE,
YOU CAN'T BELIEVE IN LOVE
YOU CAN'T BELIEVE IN WHAT YOU CAN'T SEE
MUTUAL SELF-INTEREST
ANTAGO-NISM
YOU CAN ONLY SEEK RELATIONSHIPS THAT ARE CLEARLY DEFINED

WHO CAN'T BELIEVE IN LOVE..
EVERY-ONE
AND I'M NOT JUST TALKING ABOUT KURO

KURO WILL BE OKAY.
MY ROLE IS OVER.
TOIRO?
THE FAKE
SHOULD JUST DISAPPEAR.

I WAS CREATED TO FEND OFF LONELINESS...
A FAKE BODY...
A FAKE HEART
A FAKE HUMAN
A FAKE.
BUT EVEN SO...

I KNOW THAT THIS FEELING OF LONELINESS
IS REAL.
KURO.
IROHA
I LOVE YOU.

data

Witch (real name Yume Furusuna)
Gender female
Height/weight 132~153/30~48
Affiliations Asami Elementary School, Fifth Grade ~ Ogawa High School, Sophomore
Hobbies stalking, going to the library

ib

Instant Bullet of time
Can use 2~4/5 times

She can travel through time, both to the past and future. However, she must avoid creating time paradoxes, which severely limits possible usage of her power and has resulted in her personality becoming warped.

personality

A master of faking a smile
She carries a gun, and has the means to have herself instantly admitted to a high-level university
Because Kuro, Moroki, and Kokage gave her the "reason for existing" that she had lacked since she was a child, she harbors deep feelings of affection for them
Everything she does is for Kuro Fukase's sake, but the strain on her mind caused by her experiences as a child, the limits placed on her by her visions of the future, and her role as the witch are clear for anyone to see.

Timeline of the Witch

■ 0
Born. Kuro Fukase is seven at the time, making them seven years apart in age.

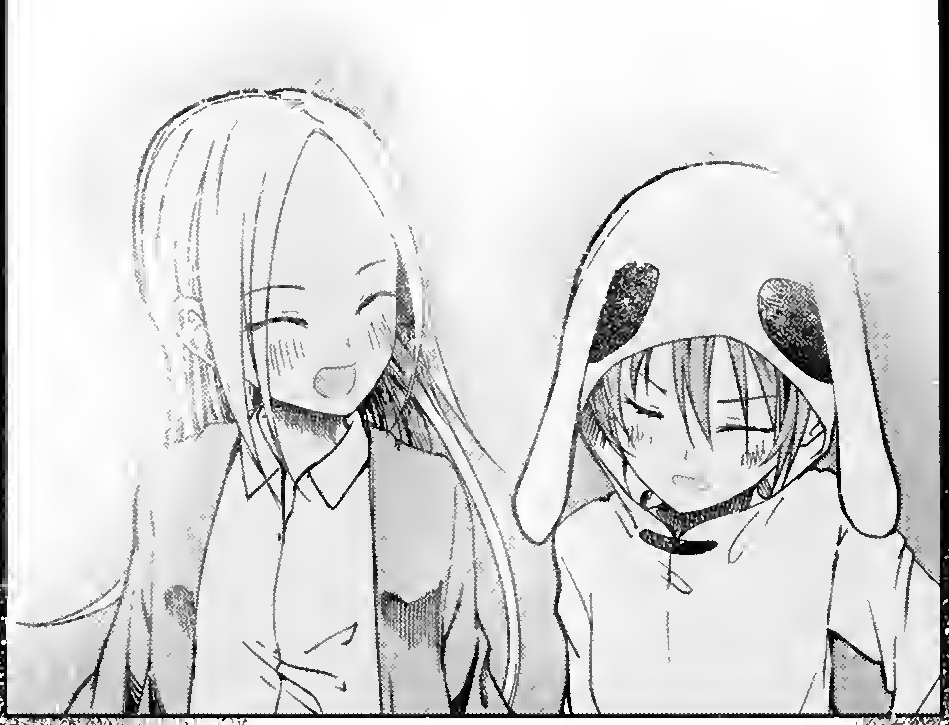
■ 8 (From living in the foster home to living with herself)
Abandoned in the mountains by her parents, and nearly died. Taken into the custody of a foster home where she was cared for. Awoke as the ib of time. Was taken in by the witch, and began living with her.

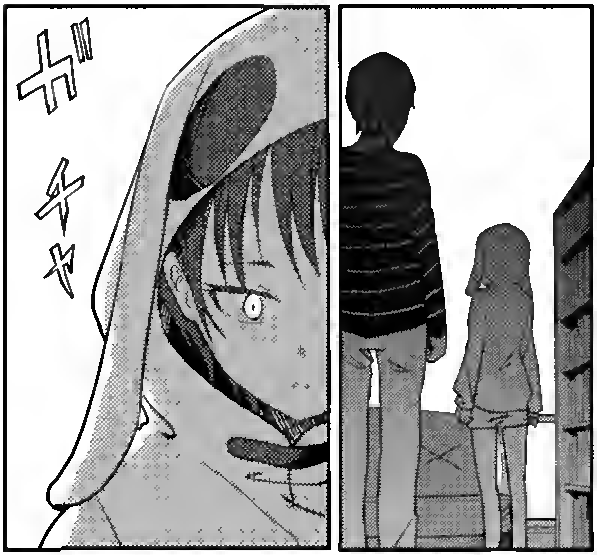
■ 9 (In the future of the main story)
The witch died. Met Kuro and the others. After being with them, traveled back in time five years to August 21, 2003, the day Toiro died. Became the witch, and began acting in secret. Now two years younger than Kuro.

■ 10-14 (Acting in secret)
Made contact with Colorful. Asked the ib of information if a way to change the future existed. Was held captive by people afraid of her powers, and began to slowly go insane. After escaping, began living together with Yume (9).

■ 15 (Main story)
The main story begins at the end of 2007. Made contact with Moroki, Kokage, and Kuro. Stayed with them for some time, and confessed her love to Kuro. Died.

YOU'VE GOT MAIL!
Right?
Mm

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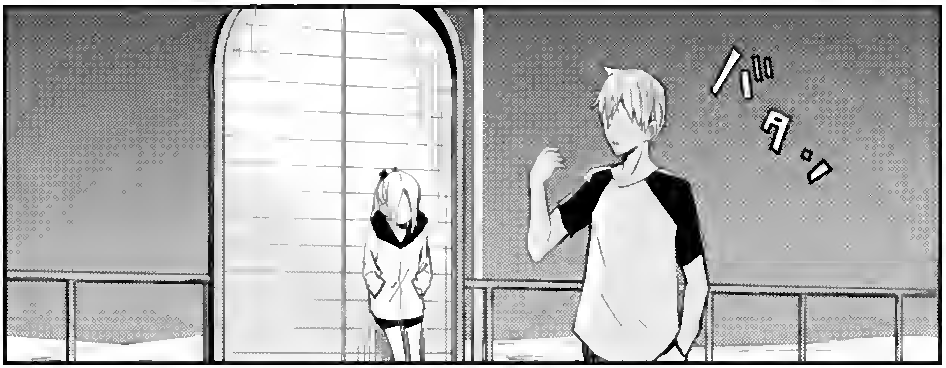
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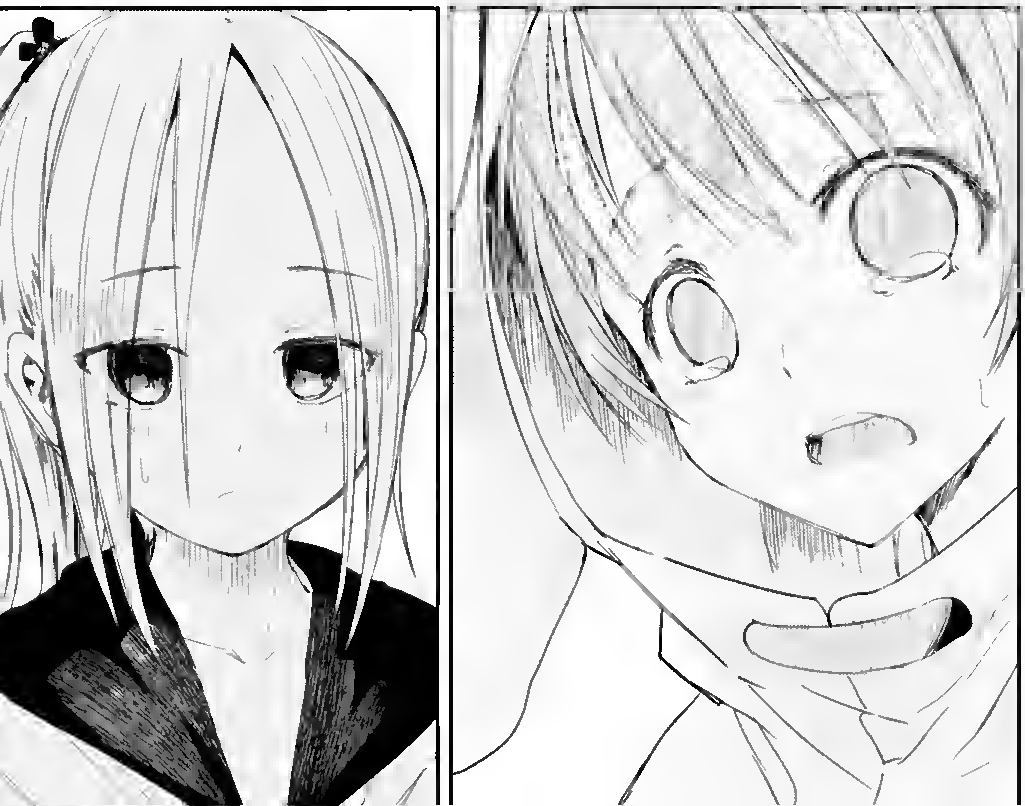

HER?
YOU REALLY LIKED HER.
THE WITCH. EVEN THOUGH SHE WAS SO WEIRD
AND ACTED LIKE AN IDIOT.
NO. SHE AND I AREN'T THE SAME.
...COULD YOU NOT SAY IT LIKE THAT?
YOU'RE TALKING ABOUT YOURSELF, AFTER ALL

I CANT TAKE HER PLACE.
I'M NOT A REPLACE-MENT.
.....
A REPLACE-MENT...

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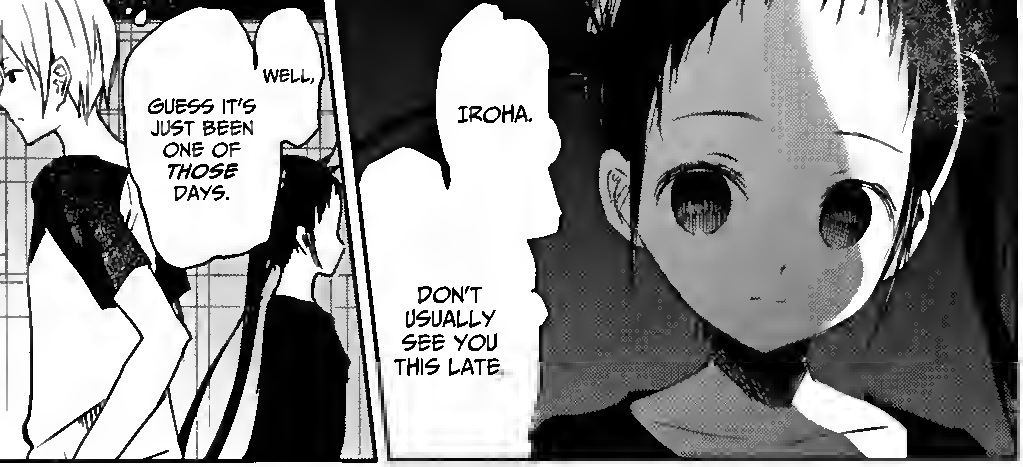
PART TWO

FIRST LOVE IN THE PAST AND FUTURE

FIN


WELL, GUESS IT'S JUST BEEN ONE OF THOSE DAYS.
IROHA.
DON'T USUALLY SEE YOU THIS LATE

DO YOU
NOT NEED US ANYMORE, KURO?

instant bullet

PART THREE
RIDDLE THIS TINY WORLD WITH BULLETS

HEY...
WHAT THE HELL IS GOING ON...
TELL ME...
IROHA!!

I SHOULDN'T HAVE TO TELL YOU, KURO.
YOU'VE JUST BEEN STOPPING YOURSELF FROM SEEING THE TRUTH THIS WHOLE TIME.
YOU SHOULD HAVE REALIZED THAT I WASN'T PART OF YOUR IMAGINATION.
.....

I'M THE IB OF SYMPATHY.
I CAN MANIPULATE PEOPLE'S SENSES.
UNDER THE RIGHT CONDITIONS, I CAN EVEN CONTROL PEOPLE.
LIKE THIS.
IT'S REALLY CONVE-NIENT.
I CAN MAKE PEOPLE SEE WHATEVER I WANT THEM TO SEE,
OR HIDE WHAT I DON'T.

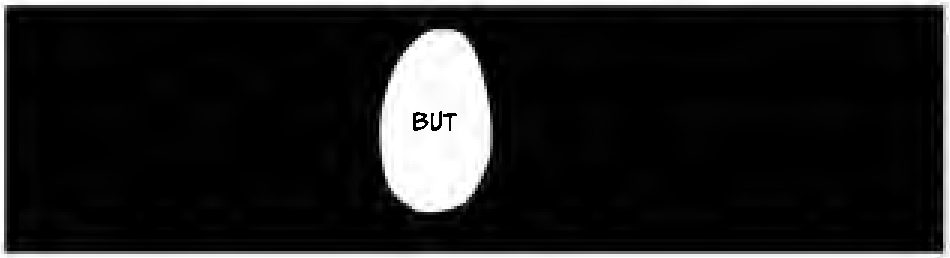
I PUT MYSELF INTO YOUR VISION.
YOU HAVEN'T BEEN IMAGINING ME.
THAT IT WAS JUST LIKE I WAS REALLY THERE?
DIDN'T YOU EVER THINK
EVEN THOUGH THE REAL ME
IS STILL SLEEPING IN THAT HOSPITAL BED...

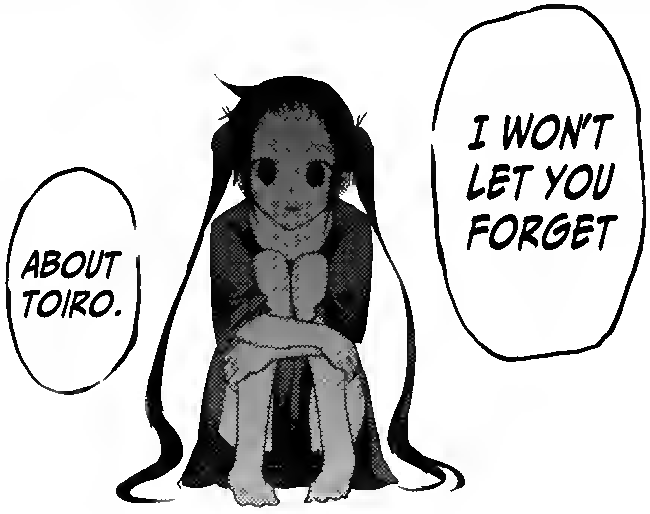
SO THAT'S HOW IT IS.
YOU MUST
REALLY HATE ME.
OF COURSE YOU DO.
BE-CAUSE...
IT'S ALL MY FAULT...
イル
イル

KURO...
I LOVE YOU.
YOU'RE MY FAMILY.
YOU'VE BEEN WATCHING OVER ME AS I SLEEP.
IT MAKES ME SO HAPPY.
BUT...

WHAT ARE YOU...?
DO YOU
NOT LOVE ME ANYMORE?
I GUESS IT'S ONLY NATURAL.
I GET IT.
YOU'D OBVIOUSLY CARE MORE ABOUT YOUR REAL FRIENDS
THAN A FAKE LIKE ME.
THE DEAD ARE SLOWLY FORGOTTEN.
IT'S ONLY NATURAL.

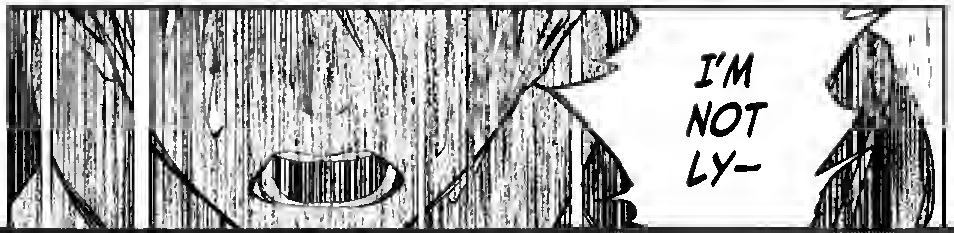
I WAS FINE
WITH PLAYING THE ROLE OF A FANTASY.
I'LL PROBABLY NEVER WAKE UP.
THE DAY WILL COME WHEN YOU GIVE UP ON ME.
SO IT'S OKAY
IF YOU FORGET ABOUT ME.
THAT'S WHAT I THINK.


BUT


I WON'T LET YOU FORGET
ABOUT TOIRO.

I...
I WOULD NEVER DO THAT...
I COULD NEVER FORGET YOU!!
NOT YOU... AND NOT TOIRO!
I'LL NEVER FORGET YOU!!
フ フ...
HEH.

THERE YOU GO. TELLING KIND LIES...
YOU'VE REALLY
BECOME AN ADULT.


I'M NOT LY—

THIS PAST WEEK.
YOU HAVEN'T THOUGHT ABOUT US
A SINGLE TIME.

AS THE IB OF SYMPATHY, I CAN FEEL YOUR PAIN.
HEARING. SIGHT.
TASTE.
AND NOT JUST PAIN.

I'VE
ALWAYS BEEN WITH YOU.

SPEAKING OF TASTE.
THAT KISS WITH YUME FURUSUNA TASTED LIKE BLOOD. IT WAS DISGUSTING.

I KNOW WHAT YOU'RE THINKING, KURO.
"WHAT'RE YOU TALKING ABOUT, IROHA?"
THAT'S WHAT YOU'RE ABOUT TO SAY, ISN'T IT?
YOU'RE NAIVE AND CRUEL.
YOU'RE WEAK, YOU GET LONELY, AND YOU CRY.
I KNOW YOU BETTER THAN ANYONE ELSE IN THE WORLD.
KURO...
I KNOW YOU WISH YOU COULD BE FREE OF US,

THAT'S WHAT YOU'RE ALWAYS THINKING.
YOU WANT TO FORGET.
YOU WANT TO BE FORGIVEN.

I DON'T CARE WHAT YOU DO.
I DON'T CARE WHAT YOU THINK.
I WON'T LET YOU.
YOU CAN'T, KURO.

SO YOU'LL NEVER FORGET AGAIN.
BUT I WON'T LET YOU FORGET TOIRO.
YOU NEED TO REMEMBER...
WHAT YOU DID TO HER.

パキ
TO...
TOIRO...!
パキ
ガシ
HEY, KURO...

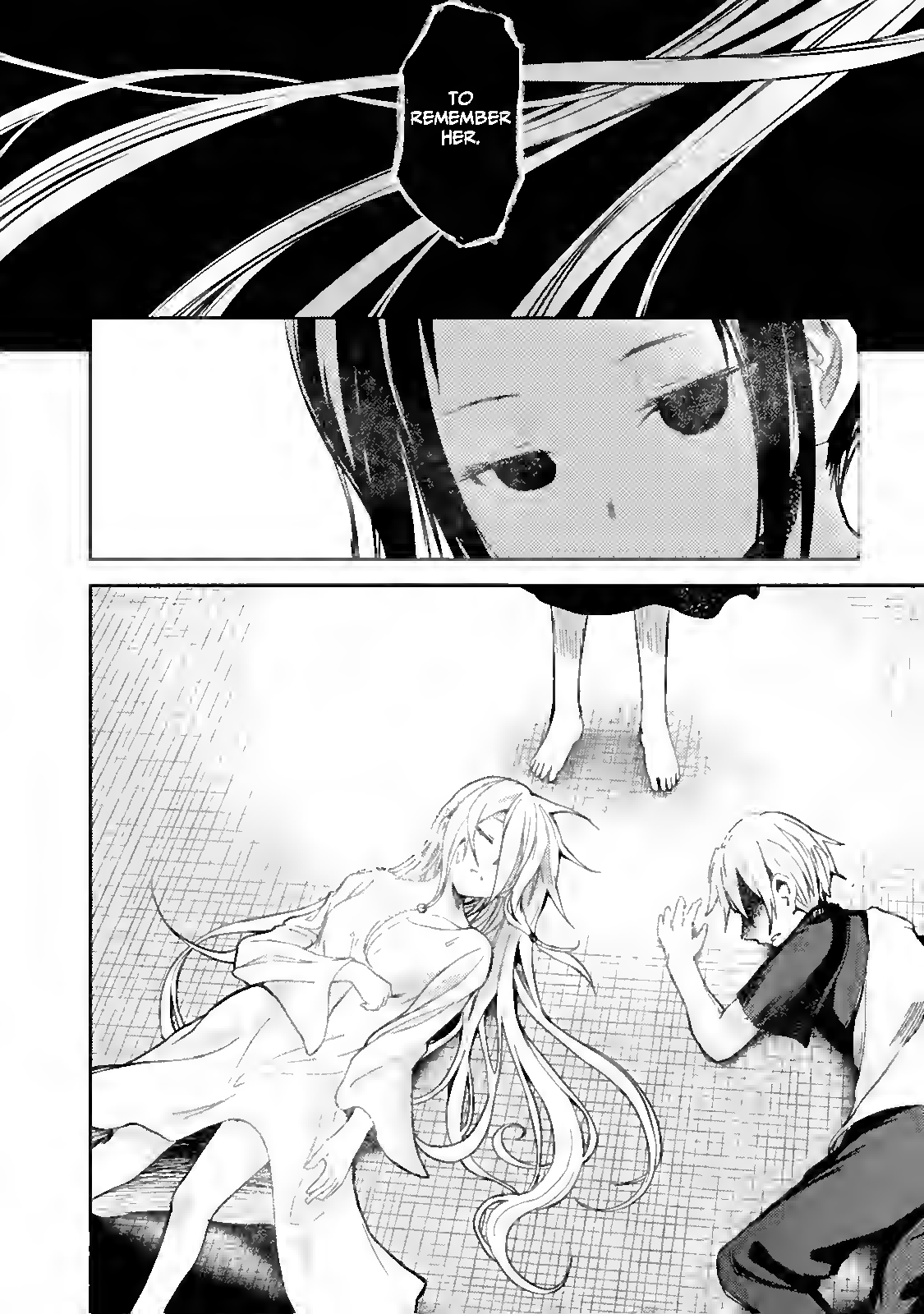
IS THIS OKAY?
HEY, KURO...

PLEASE, TELL ME...!

YOU...
UNDER-STAND, DON'T YOU...?

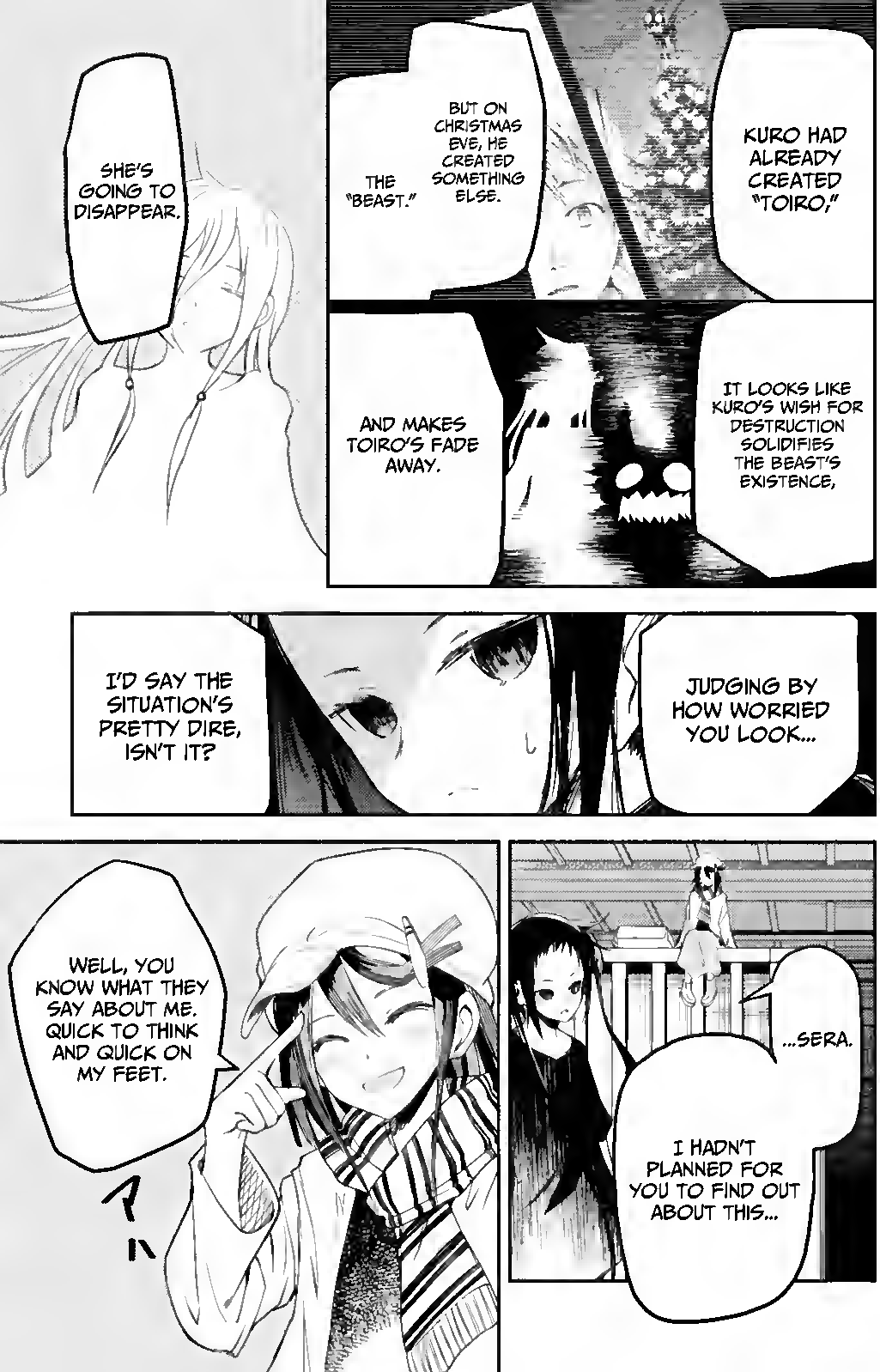
I DON'T...
UNDERSTAND...

AH...
AHH...
THAT'S RIGHT, KURO.
YOU NEED...


TO REMEMBER HER.

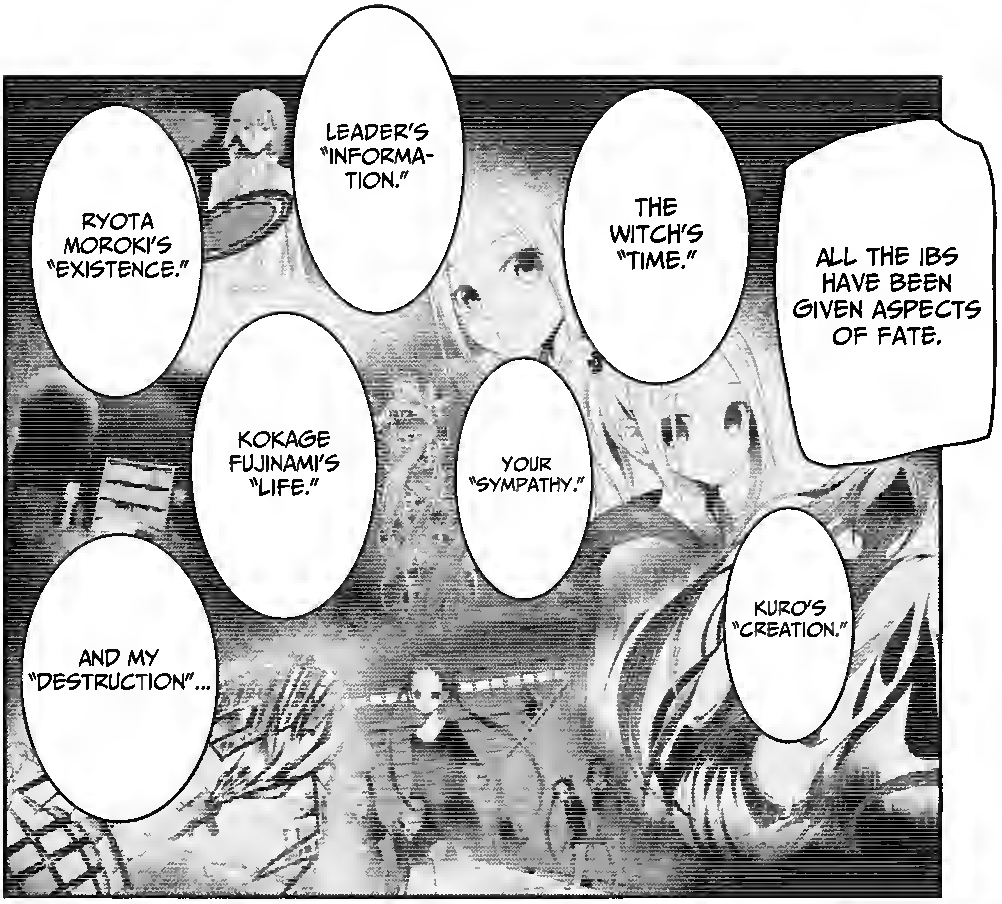
I'LL...
PROTECT YOU.
IT'S OKAY, TOIRO.
I WON'T LET YOU DISAPPEAR.
HMM.
SO THAT'S HOW IT IS.

I GET IT NOW.
THAT'S KURO'S MAGIC.
THE IB OF CREATION.
BUT IT LOOKS LIKE THINGS AREN'T GOING SO WELL.
YOUR SISTER WASN'T KURO'S FANTASY OR SOMETHING YOU PUT INTO HIS VISION.
I WONDER WHY?
MAYBE IT'S AN ISSUE OF CAPACITY...
KURO CREATED HER WITH HIS IB.


KURO HAD ALREADY CREATED "TOIRO,"
BUT ON CHRISTMAS EVE, HE CREATED SOMETHING ELSE.
THE "BEAST."
IT LOOKS LIKE KURO'S WISH FOR DESTRUCTION SOLIDIFIES THE BEAST'S EXISTENCE,
AND MAKES TOIRO'S FADE AWAY.
SHE'S GOING TO DISAPPEAR.
JUDGING BY HOW WORRIED YOU LOOK...
I'D SAY THE SITUATION'S PRETTY DIRE, ISN'T IT?
...SERA.
I HADN'T PLANNED FOR YOU TO FIND OUT ABOUT THIS...
WELL, YOU KNOW WHAT THEY SAY ABOUT ME. QUICK TO THINK AND QUICK ON MY FEET.

SERA.
WORK WITH ME.
...WELL, IT DOESN'T MATTER.
IF YOU ALREADY KNOW THAT MUCH, THAT MAKES THINGS EASIER.
.....
NO WAY.

IF YOU SAVE YOUR SISTER,
THE BEAST WILL DISAPPEAR, RIGHT?
!!
THAT'S JUST BORING.
PLUS,
THERE'S SOMETHING I DON'T LIKE
WHAT PART OF THAT IS "HEROIC?"

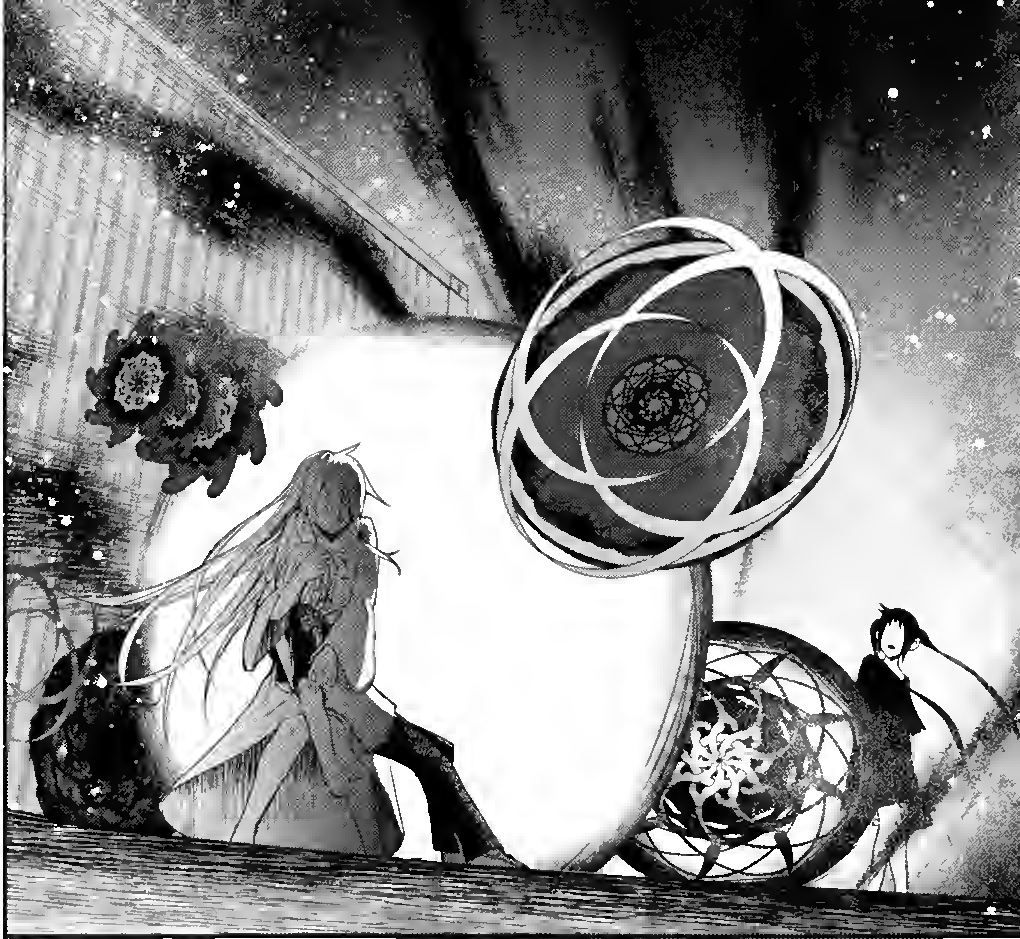

LEADER'S "INFORMATION."
RYOTA MOROKI'S "EXISTENCE."
THE WITCH'S "TIME."
ALL THE IBS HAVE BEEN GIVEN ASPECTS OF FATE.
KOKAGE FUJINAMI'S "LIFE."
YOUR "SYMPATHY."
KURO'S "CREATION."
AND MY "DESTRUCTION"...

THE TWENTY IBS ARE ALL GATHERED IN THIS TOWN.
AND LEADER USED HIS LIMITLESS KNOWLEDGE
TO IDENTIFY NINETEEN OF THEM.

WHY'D I GET DESTRUCTION?
AT LEAST LET ME PICK WHAT I GET.

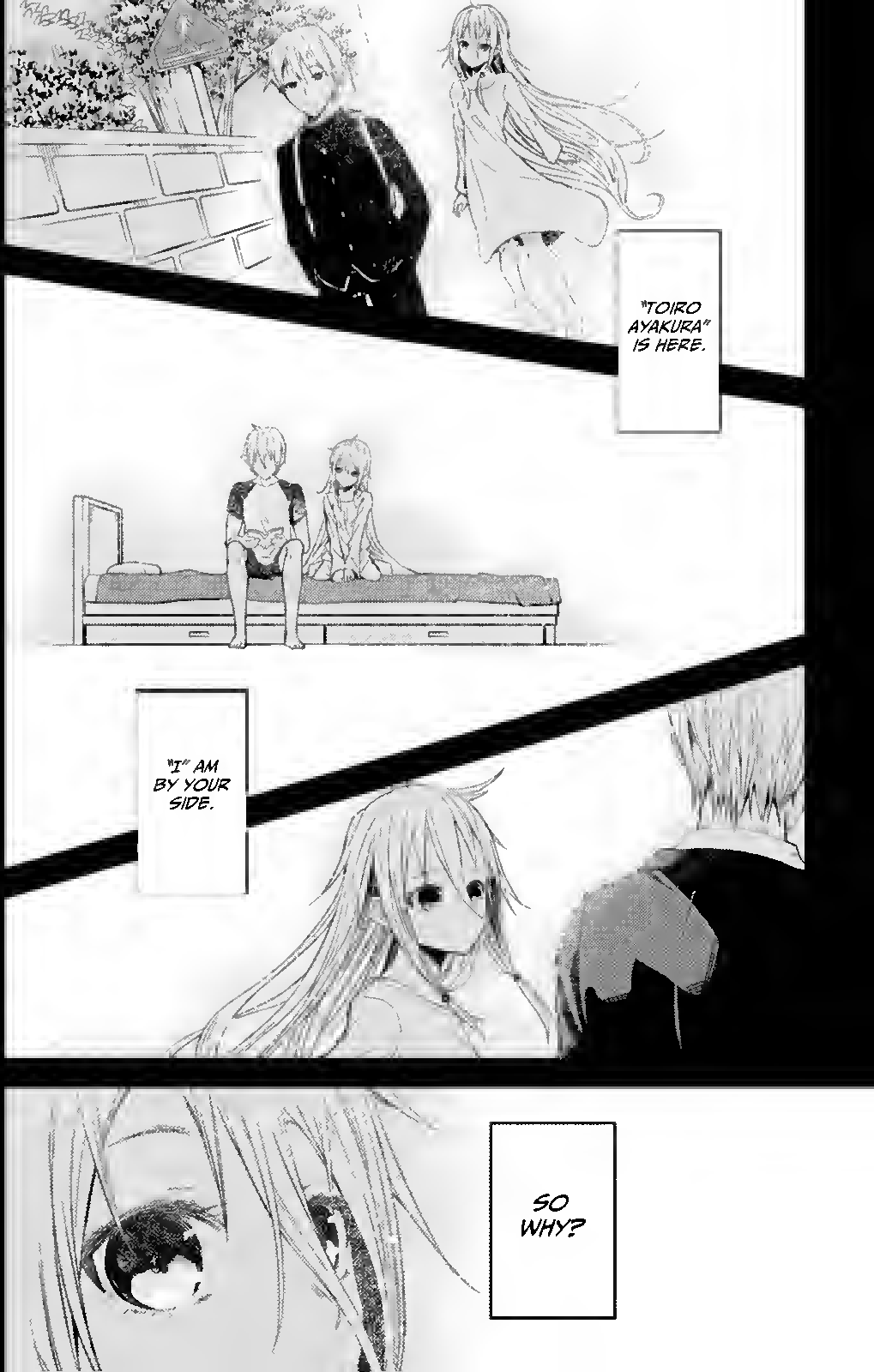
BUT THERE'S STILL ONE MORE.
よいしょ。
WE HAVEN'T FOUND THE IB OF HEROES.
ガラ。。。
SO THAT'S
WHAT THESE ARE FOR.
RIGHT?

SEE?


YEAH, I REALLY DON'T LIKE THIS...

THE INSTANT BULLET OF HEROES.
THE FINAL IB, TOIRO AYAKURA.

Chapter 18
IT MUST HAVE BEEN A MIRACLE.
SO HARD.
I WISHED IT SO,
I WISHED TO BE WITH KURO.
I'M SURE KURO MUST HAVE WISHED THE SAME THING.
SO GOD MUST HAVE CAUSED A MIRACLE FOR US.


"TOIRO AYAKURA" IS HERE.
"I" AM BY YOUR SIDE.
SO WHY?

Chapter 18:
The Girl who was Always There

TOIRO IS AN IB...?
WHAT ON EARTH IS GOING ON!?
IBS ARE BORN FROM THE SOUL.
THERE-FORE,
AS LONG AS IT HAS A PERSONALITY, EVEN SOMETHING BORN FROM ANOTHER IB CAN GAIN THE POWER OF AN IB.
...OR SOMETHING LIKE THAT
BUT I DON'T GET IT.

HOW COME A FAKE LIKE YOU IS THE IB OF HEROES
INSTEAD OF ME...?
WHAT'S GOING ON...!?
WHY WAS THIS GIRL THROWING BOMBS AT KURO...?
AND WHAT ARE THESE CIRCLES...!?
YOU CAN'T RUN.
I HAVE TO GET KURO AWAY FROM HER!
I DON'T HAVE TIME TO THINK ABOUT THAT NOW!
NO...

IN CASE YOU HAVEN'T NOTICED BY NOW,
EVERYONE WAS JUST USING YOU.
SERA...
WHAT ARE YOU DOING!?

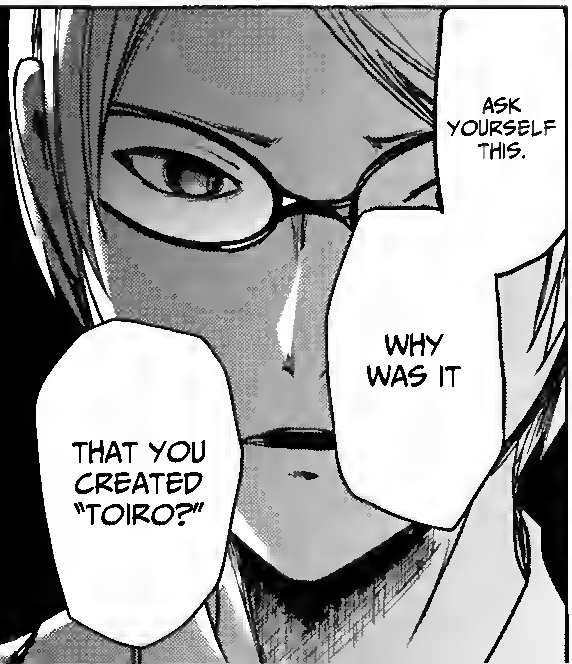
THEY TOOK ADVANTAGE OF HOW ALL YOU CARED ABOUT WAS PROTECTING YOUR SISTER.
THEY NEEDED YOU TO MENTALLY DRIVE KURO INTO A CORNER,
TO AWAKEN TOIRO.
THE IB OF HEROES.
THAT'S WHAT THEY WERE AFTER.
INDEED.
WE'VE BEEN WAITING ALL THIS TIME
FOR TOIRO AYAKURA TO AWAKEN AS THE IB OF HEROES.

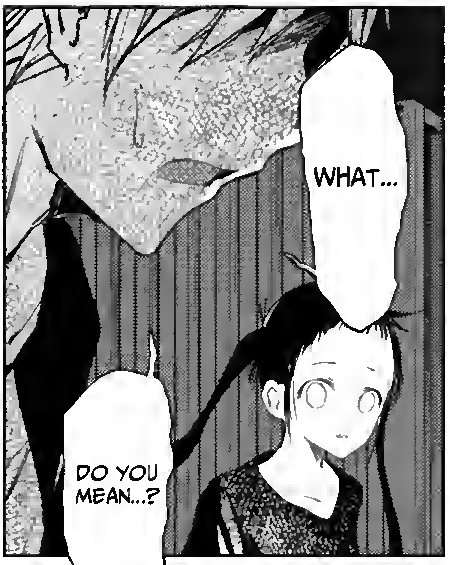
IN ORDER TO ACHIEVE THAT GOAL, WE NEEDED KURO FUKASE TO EVOLVE AS AN IB.
IROHA'S ACTIONS
AND THE WITCH'S DEATH...
EVERYTHING HAS BEEN PART OF OUR PLAN, LEADING UP TO TODAY.
NOW GIVE US TOIRO AYAKURA.
GIVE US THE IB OF HEROES.
WHAT ARE THEY TALKING ABOUT?
WHAT'S THIS POWER?
WHAT'S AN "IB OF HEROES"...?

STAY QUIET, IROHA.
KURO FUKASE IS THE ONE WE'RE HERE TO TALK TO.
DON'T LISTEN TO THEM...
YOU BETRAYED ME!?
KURO FUKASE.
I'LL MAKE THIS SIMPLE.
WE'RE NOT DOING ANYTHING LIKE ASKING YOU TO GIVE UP YOUR POWER.
.....

JUST A SMALL FRACTION OF YOUR POWER...
"THE SOUL OF TOIRO AYAKURA."
THAT IS ALL WE WANT FROM YOU.
...THE HELL ARE YOU TALKING ABOUT?
I'M NOT GIVING HER TO YOU, AND I COULDN'T EVEN IF I *DID* WANT TO.
I AM THE IB OF CONTRACTS.
I HAVE THE POWER TO PLACE AN ABSOLUTE BINDING ON ANY TWO PARTIES THAT COME TO AN AGREEMENT.

"I RELINQUISH TOIRO AYAKURA"
JUST SAY THE WORDS.
DO THAT, AND SHE WILL DISAPPEAR FROM BEFORE YOU.
THAT DOESN'T SOUND SO BAD, DOES IT?


ASK YOURSELF THIS.
WHY WAS IT
THAT YOU CREATED "TOIRO?"


WHAT...
DO YOU MEAN...?

I CAN SEE THIS IS GOING NOWHERE.
I SUPPOSE IT'S TO BE EXPECTED.
THEN LOOK AT THIS.
ZZT
ZZT

ROGER.
DO NOT MAKE DIRECT CONTACT WITH IROHA'S BODY.
WE WOULDN'T WANT HER GAINING CONTROL OF YOUR MIND.
!!
I CAN'T DO A THING!
THEY KNOW THE CONDITION FOR MY POWER!
THE LIFE OF YOUR LITTLE SISTER,
OR THE LOSS OF A MERE FANTASY.
CHOOSE, FUKASE.

SHE'S REAL!!
SHE'S NOT A FANTASY!!
DON'T DO IT, KURO...
YOU CAN'T GIVE THEM TOIRO!!
I DON'T CARE IF I DIE!
ARE YOU JUST GOING TO ABANDON HER AGAIN!?
SHE WON'T BE SAFE WITH THEM.

I WON'T FORGIVE YOU THIS TIME!!
IF YOU DO THAT...
IROHA-

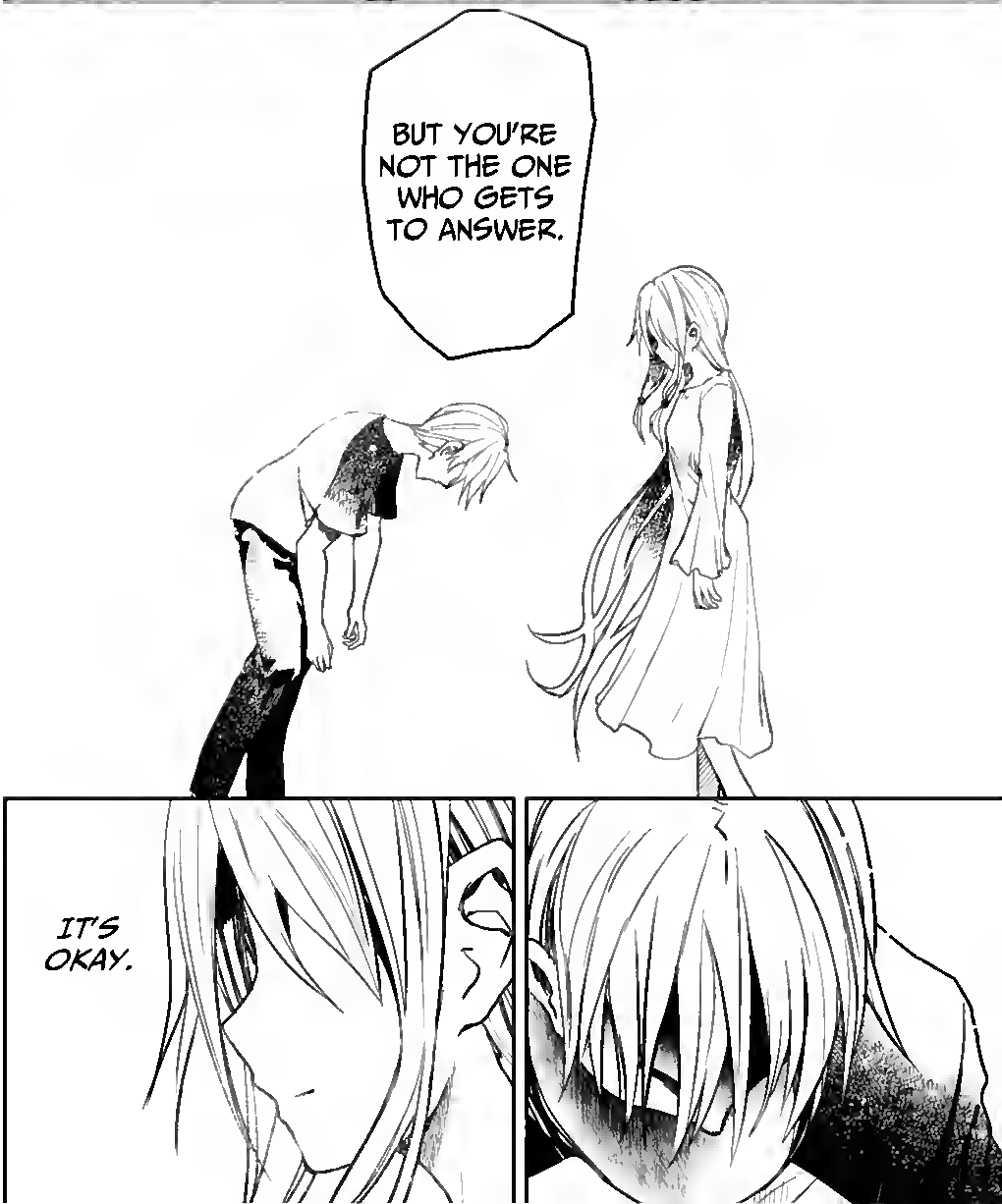
...DO IT.
THE RIGHT ARM.

KURO... YOU WON'T DO IT, RIGHT?
YOU STILL LOVE...
KIND, PURE TOIRO...!!
I KNOW...
THAT YOU STILL LOVE HER...

クッ、グッ…
GAAAHHH!!
HAVE YOU CHANGED YOUR MIND?
WE'LL GO FOR THE LEFT ARM NEXT.

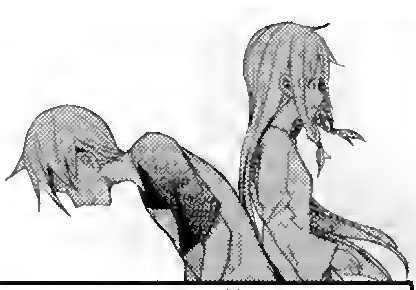
WHY IS SHE THE ONLY ONE WHO HAS TO SUFFER?
WHY IS SHE THE ONLY ONE WHO HAS TO BE FORGOTTEN?
OF... COURSE NOT.
I WON'T LET THAT HAPPEN.
I'LL PROTECT MY SISTER.
I'LL NEVER CHANGE MY MIND.

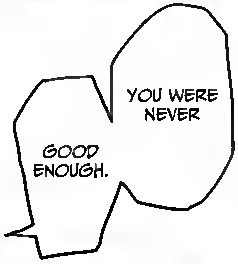
YOU MUST SHARE A TRUE BOND.
SUCH BEAUTIFUL SISTERLY LOVE.
I SEE.


BUT YOU'RE NOT THE ONE WHO GETS TO ANSWER.
IT'S OKAY.

DON'T WORRY ABOUT ME. CHOOSE IROHA.
IT'S OKAY, KURO.
NO MATTER WHAT YOU DO TO ME, I'LL NEVER HATE YOU.
THAT'S WHAT YOU'VE ALWAYS DONE, RIGHT?
NO MATTER WHAT YOU DO,
I'LL FORGIVE YOU.

ENOUGH
OF THIS SHIT.

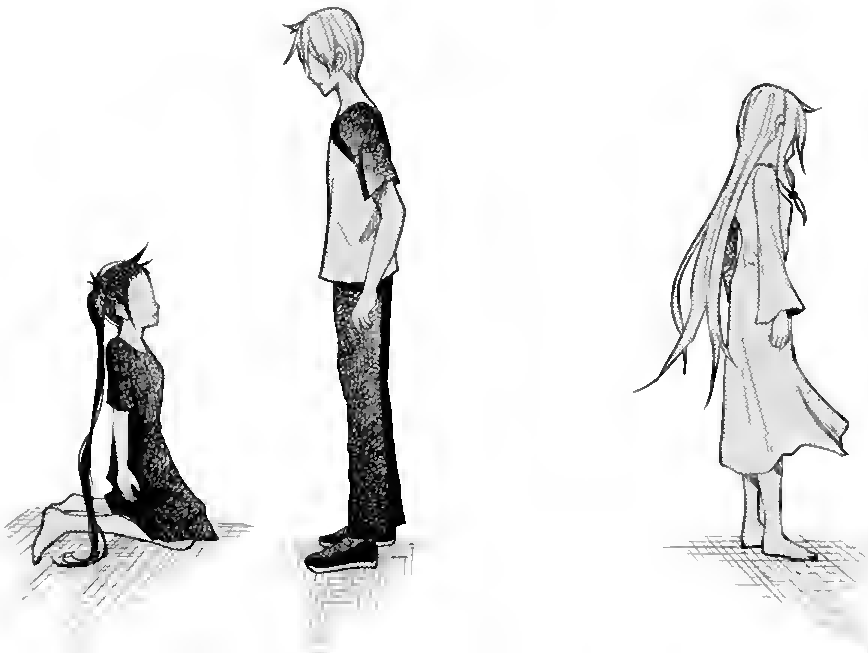



YOU WERE NEVER GOOD ENOUGH.

YOU'RE RIGHT, IROHA.

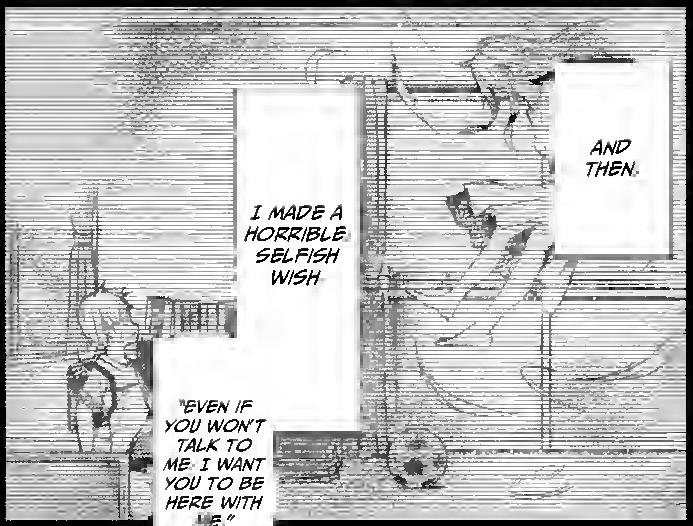
THE KIND,
PURE TOIRO.
I DID LOVE
KURO...
I...
I'M SORRY.
SORRY, IROHA.

RELINQUISH
TOIRO
AYAKURA.



TOIRO

WAS ALWAYS THERE FOR ME.



Chapter 19: First Name

I RELINQUISH TOIRO AYAKURA.
I HAVE HEARD YOUR DECLARATION.
KURO...!
THE CONTRACT HAS BEEN MADE!!

バリ
?
ラ
!
INSUFFICIENT TERMS
INSUFFI-CIENT!?
HE SAID HE RELINQUISHED TOIRO AYAKURA! WHAT PART OF THAT IS...
NO SHIT IT'S NOT ENOUGH.
TOIRO AYAKURA IS DEAD.

WHAT IS THE MEANING OF THIS, FUKASE!?
SORRY,
BUT TOIRO AYAKURA DIED ON THAT DAY.
ALL I DID WAS SAY THE NAME OF A DEAD PERSON.
THAT'S ALL.
YOU GET IT, RIGHT, TOIRO?
YOU CAN STOP KEEPING QUIET NOW.
YOU BE THE ONE TO TELL US WHO YOU ARE!

THAT'S NOT SOMETHING YOU CAN DECIDE FOR YOURSELF!!
WHAT ARE YOU TALKING ABOUT, KURO...?
THAT DOESN'T MAKE SENSE.
YOU JUST SET THAT "RULE" BECAUSE YOU WISHED SHE WOULDN'T BLAME YOU!!
YOU WANTED TO BE WITH HER...
DO YOU HAVE ANY IDEA WHAT WE'VE HAD TO GO THROUGH!?
YOU WISHED SHE'D TELL YOU EVERYTHING WAS OKAY...
ALL BECAUSE YOU TURNED AND RAN!?
HOW COULD YOU MAKE SUCH A SELFISH WISH...
"JUST BE A FANTASY THAT WON'T TALK," WAS IT!?

THE TOIRO WHO'S HERE NOW...
I BETRAYED HER FROM THE VERY BEGINNING.
I JUST WISHED FOR HER TO BE WITH ME, WITHOUT SAYING A THING...
YOU DON'T GET TO COMPLAIN TO HER!!
IT WAS ALL YOUR FAULT!!
YEAH...
BECAUSE OF THE PART OF ME THAT'S SO UGLY.
MY WEAKNESS.
BUT...

I KNEW IT WAS WRONG...!
FOR RUNNING AWAY...!
I WANTED TO NOT HATE MYSELF
I WANTED TO BE STRONGER.
PLEASE, SAY IT WAS MY FAULT!!
I WISHED SO MANY TIMES...
PLEASE SAY SOME-THING...
PLEASE LET ME HEAR YOUR VOICE...

HUNDREDS OF TIMES...
I WISHED TENS...
AND THEN I REALIZED.
THIS WASN'T JUST MY WISH.
BUT...
I COULDN'T CHANGE THE RULE I'D SET.
THIS
WAS WHAT YOU WISHED FOR.

I AM TOIRO AYAKURA.

GOD CAUSED A MIRACLE SO WE COULD BE TOGETHER AGAIN...
OR SO I THOUGHT
I WANTED TO BE WITH KURO,
AND KURO WISHED FOR ME TO BE WITH HIM.
BUT SOMETHING DIDN'T FEEL RIGHT.

EVERYTHING FROM MY BIRTH TO MIDDLE SCHOOL WAS GONE.
I COULDN'T REMEMBER EVERYTHING.
MY ONLY MEMORIES WERE OF MY TIME WITH KURO.
THIS "RULE" WAS BORN.
AND FROM THAT ONE MOMENT OF UNEASINESS.

TOIRO AYAKURA IS A FANTASY.

A FANTASY CANNOT SPEAK.

IROHA APPEARED, PLACING HERSELF DIRECTLY IN KURO'S BRAIN,
AND MY MEMORIES INCREASED.
AND KURO'S WISH, MADE WHEN HE WAS TERRIFIED I WOULD BLAME HIM,
BECAME MY WISH.
ALL THE MEMORIES OF ME AND IROHA FLOWED INTO MY HEAD...
AND A GAP WAS FORMED.

THE ME I HAD BEEN UNTIL THEN...
AND THE ME IN IROHA'S MEMORIES..
WERE SO SIMILAR,
BUT UNDENIABLY "DIFFERENT."
WHO
AM I?

WHO KURO LOVED.
THE KIND, BEAUTIFUL GIRL
I AM TOIRO AYAKURA.
SAY SOME-THING...
PLEASE...
PLEASE, JUST LET ME HEAR YOUR VOICE AGAIN!!
YOU CAN BLAME ME ALL YOU WANT..
YOU CAN SAY WHATEVER YOU WANT...

I CAN'T.

I CAN'T.

I CAN'T.

I CAN'T LET KURO KNOW
THAT I'M A FAKE.
IF I SAY A SINGLE WORD
HE'LL REALIZE I'M A FAKE.
AND HE WON'T WANT ME TO BE WITH HIM ANYMORE...
KURO WAS HURT.
HIS LONELY HEART WAS SHATTERED.
I HAVE TO BE THERE FOR HIM.
I HAVE TO STAY SILENT.

I'M SCARED. I'M SCARED.
I'M SCARED THAT HE'LL REALIZE I'M A FAKE.
I HAVE TO KEEP MY MOUTH SHUT.
I KNOW MORE THAN ANYONE
JUST HOW BROKEN KURO IS.
BUT THE ONE WHO'S WEAK, WHO'S SCARED, WHO CAN'T DO ANYTHING,
IS ME.
IN THE FUKASE FAMILY,
I WAS ALWAYS
THE OUTSIDER.

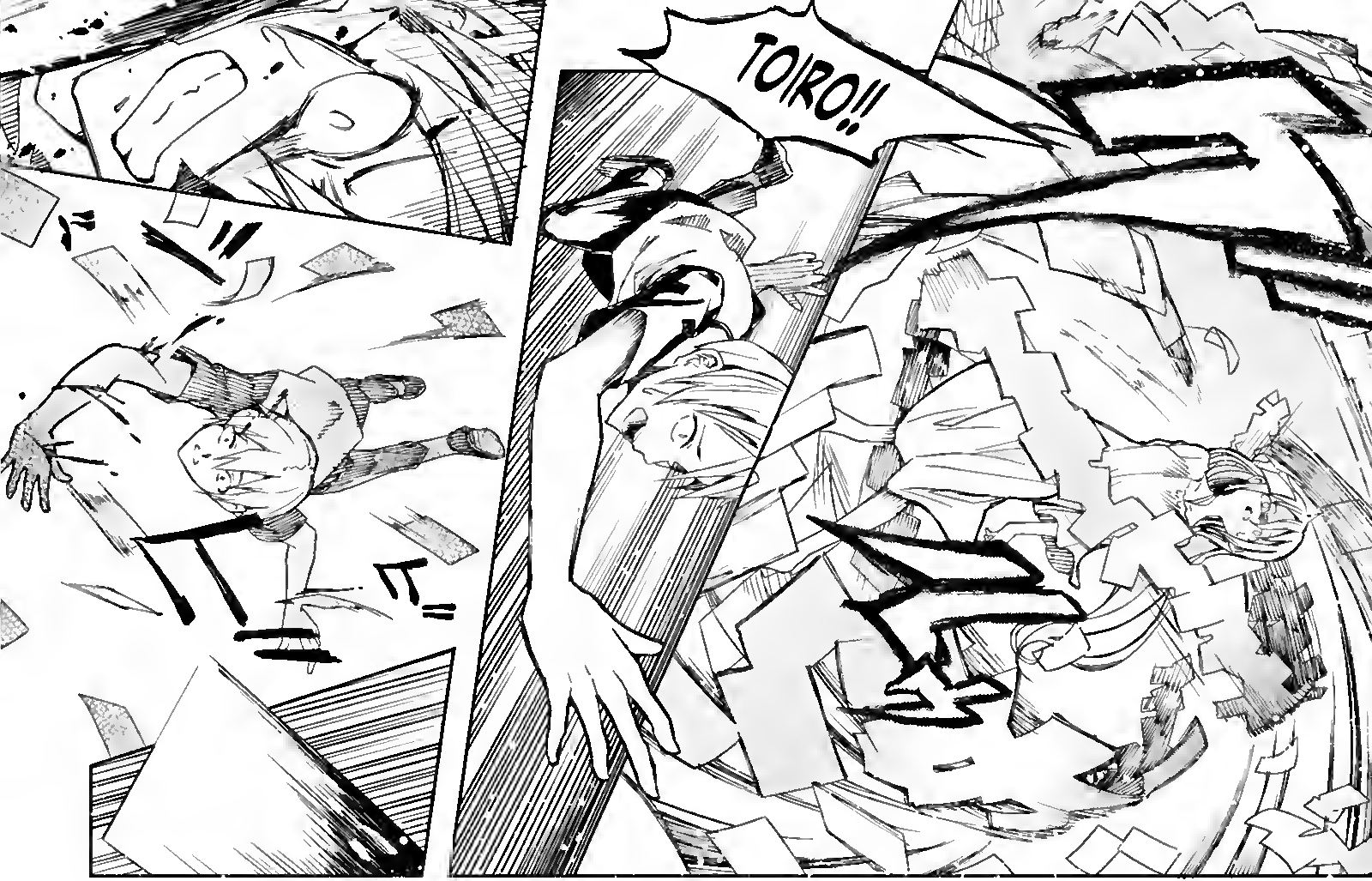
A GAP WAS FORMED IN TOIRO AYAKURA.
KURO WILL NEVER ACCEPT ME AS TOIRO.
I'M A TOIRO WHO ISN'T TOIRO.
KURO WOULD HATE ME SO MUCH IF HE KNEW.
I'M NOT KIND.
I'M NOT BEAUTIFUL.
"I" AM WEAK AND UGLY.

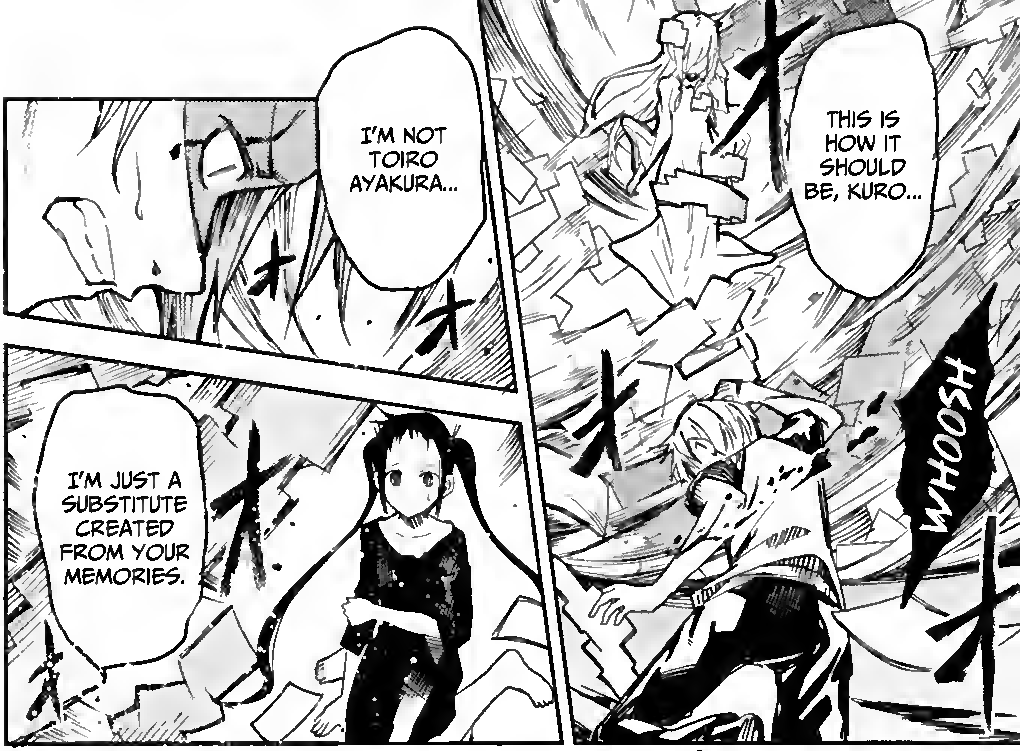
I'M SORRY..
I'M SORRY.
I'M SORRY.

I'M SORRY FOR JUST WATCHING AND NOT DOING A THING...
YOU... SPOKE?
I'M SORRY FOR JUST RUNNING AWAY...
I'M SORRY FOR NOT SAYING ANYTHING...
I'VE HURT YOU SO MUCH...
SO...

IF I ACCEPT THAT I AM TOIRO.
WILL YOU LET IROHA GO?
I PROMISE.
TOIRO!?
TOIRO!!

MY NAME IS TOIRO.
MY NAME IS TOIRO.
BUT EVEN SO,
I'M JUST A FAKE COPY OF TOIRO AYAKURA.
I DECLARE THIS.


TOIRO!!


THIS IS HOW IT SHOULD BE, KURO...
KOOHM
I'M NOT TOIRO AYAKURA...
I'M JUST A SUBSTITUTE CREATED FROM YOUR MEMORIES.

I'M NOT REAL.
I NEVER DESERVED TO BE WITH THE TWO OF YOU.

SO IN THE END...
JUST LET ME DO WHAT THE REAL ONE WOULD...
SHUT UP!!
I'VE ALWAYS KNOWN
THAT YOU WEREN'T THE REAL ONE!!

BUT I THOUGHT IT DIDN'T MATTER...
IT WAS BECAUSE I WAS WEAK!!
EVEN IF YOU'RE NOT,
I DON'T CARE!!
THAT DOESN'T CHANGE A THING!!
I WANT YOU TO STAY WITH ME!!
THERE'S NOTHING WRONG WITH THAT!!

I'M SCARED!!
I'M A COWARD!!
I'M A WEAK, UGLY...
FAKE!!
THE ONLY THING ME BEING WITH YOU WILL DO IS HURT YOU...
I CAN'T DO ANYTHING BUT WATCH!!

YEAH! COMPLAIN ALL YOU WANT!!
YOU'RE FINALLY TALKING TO ME!!
WE WERE BOTH TOO SCARED.
OUR RELATIONSHIP WOULDN'T BREAK JUST BECAUSE WE KNEW THE TRUTH.
I'VE HAD ENOUGH!
I'M SURE YOU'VE GOT TONS OF THINGS YOU WANT TO SAY TO ME!!
SO SAY ALL YOU WANT!!
I'VE...

BEEN WAITING SO LONG FOR THIS!!
LET'S GO BACK AND TALK!!
LET'S GO BACK TO OUR HOME!!
SO I'LL LISTEN TO THEM!!
YOU'VE GOT
SO MANY THINGS TO COMPLAIN ABOUT
THAT YOU'VE BEEN SAVING UNTIL NOW, HAVEN'T YOU!?

THAT'S ENOUGH, KURO FUKASE.

TOIRO AYAKURA IS OUR PROPERTY NOW!
WE WILL NOT LET YOU LAY A HAND ON HER!

OUR...
HOME...?

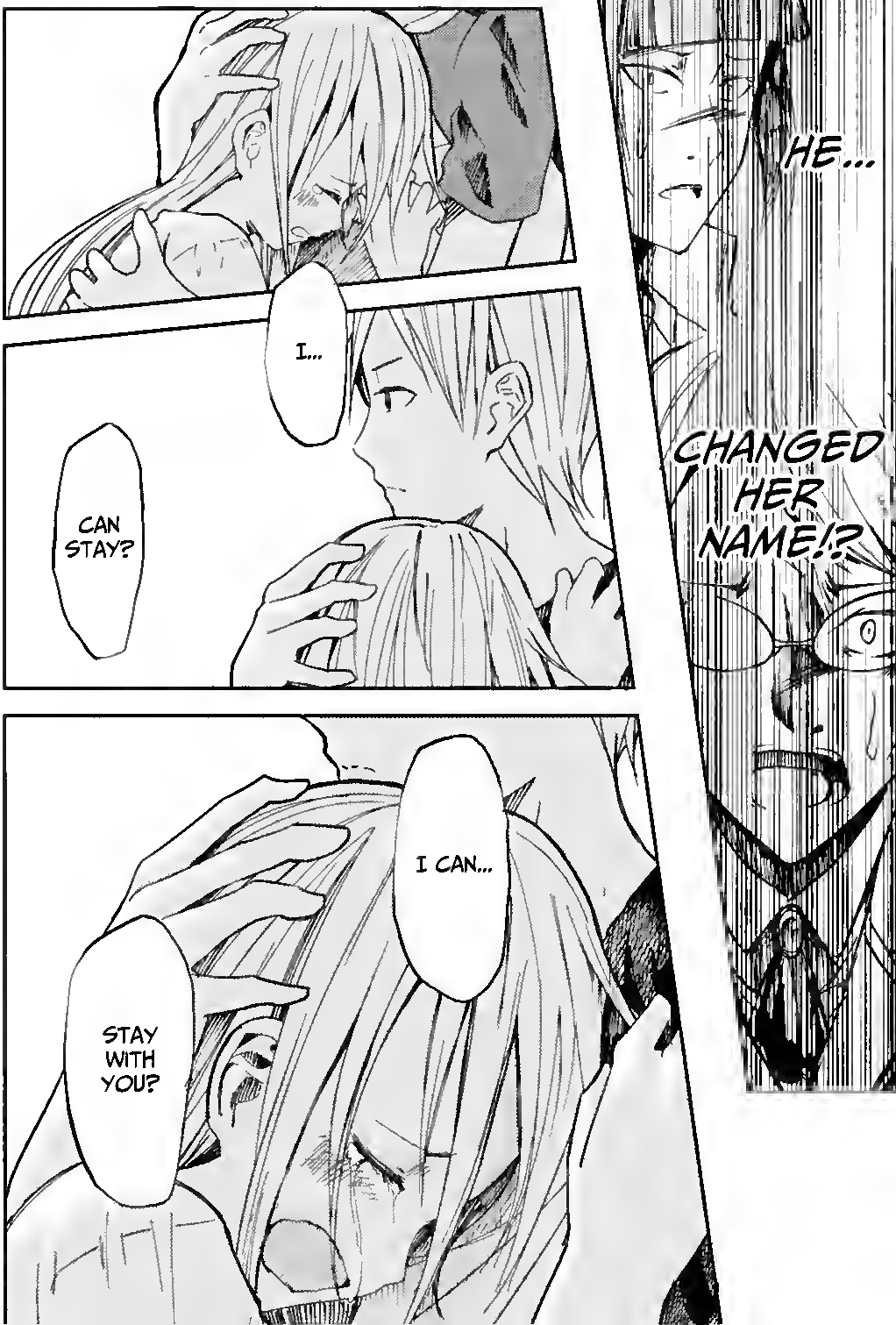
SHE'S NOT MY GIRL-FRIEND...
WHO I JUST HAPPEN TO LIVE WITH!

PROPERTY?

SHE DOESN'T BELONG TO ANYONE.
SHE'S NOT A THING!!

SHE'S NOT TOIRO AYAKURA.

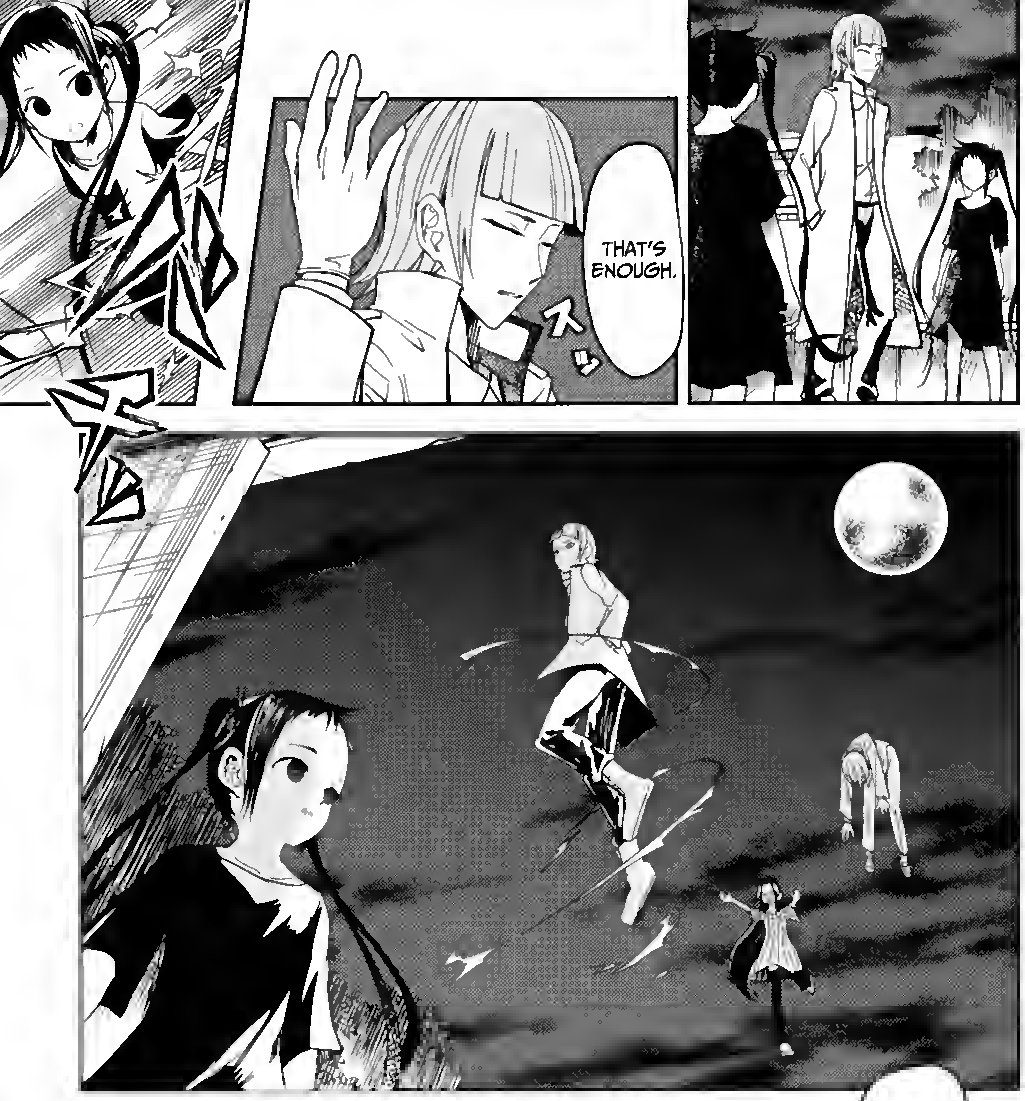
SHE'S TOIRO FUKASE.
MY SISTER.

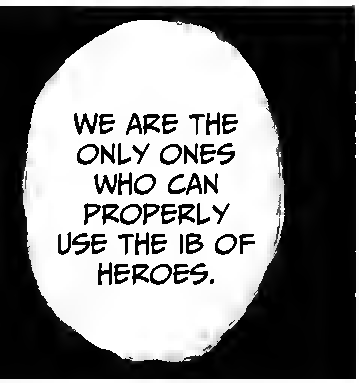

HE...
CHANGED HER NAME!?
I...
CAN STAY?
I CAN...
STAY WITH YOU?

I CAN BE THE WAY I AM?
ALL MY MEMORIES WITH EVERYONE,
AND ALL THIS PAIN IN MY HEART
CAN REALLY BE MINE?
EVEN THOUGH I'M NOT THE REAL ONE,
I CAN BE TOIRO?
I TOLD YOU... YOU HAVE TO BE THE ONE TO SAY IT.
ALL I CAN DO IS ACCEPT THAT.
I'M NOT TOIRO AYAKURA,
BUT I CAN STILL BE TOIRO...
I... AM TOIRO FUKASE.

ENOUGH OF THESE CHILDISH GAMES!!
FINISH OFF IROHA-
HEY.
DID YOU REALLY THINK I WAS JUST WAITING FOR YOU TO FINISH
WHILE YOU STOOD THERE AND WATCHED?

TIME ISN'T GOING TO STAND STILL FOR YOU, YOU KNOW.

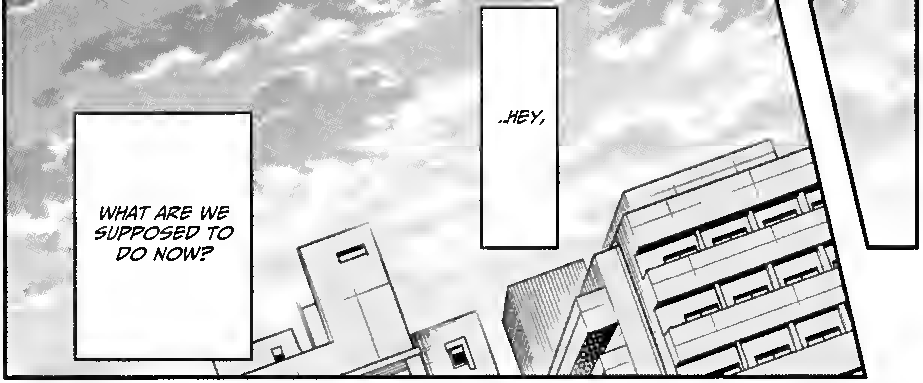

THAT'S ENOUGH.

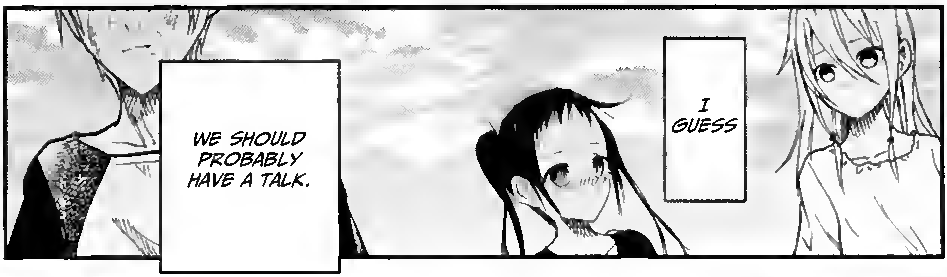

WE ARE THE ONLY ONES WHO CAN PROPERLY USE THE IB OF HEROES.

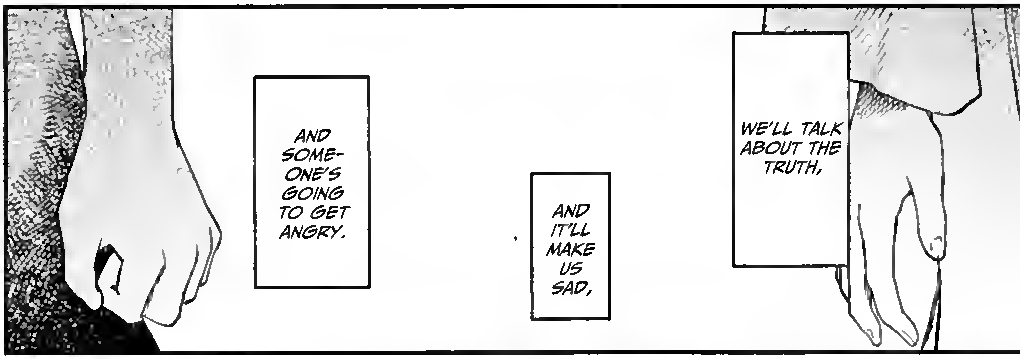
WE'LL LEAVE THINGS HERE FOR NOW...
BUT YOU'LL REALIZE THE TRUTH SOON ENOUGH.

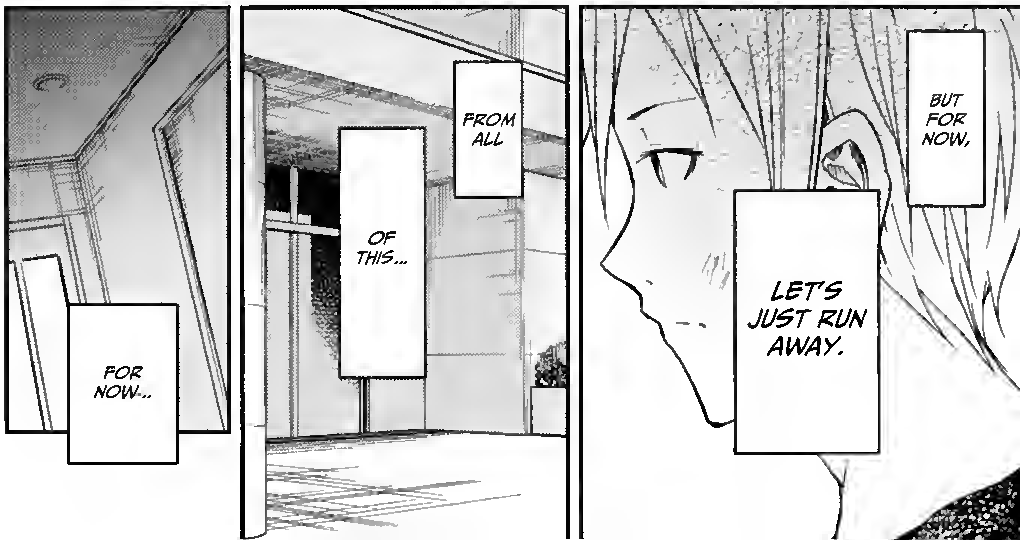
I DON'T CARE.
I...
I KNEW
ALL ALONG...

THAT TOIRO WAS DEAD...
I DIDN'T WANT HER TO BE GONE...
I WAS...
SO SCARED...
IT'S...
ALL YOUR FAULT, KURO...
HAHAHAHA!


WHAT ARE WE SUPPOSED TO DO NOW?
..HEY,


WE SHOULD PROBABLY HAVE A TALK.
I GUESS


AND SOME-ONE'S GOING TO GET ANGRY.
AND IT'LL MAKE US SAD,
WE'LL TALK ABOUT THE TRUTH,


FOR NOW..
OF THIS...
FROM ALL
LET'S JUST RUN AWAY.
BUT FOR NOW,

LET'S GO HOME.
To be continued

この世界に
「唯一」のものはない。

悪意-その奥にある破壊願望-を
起源とする魔法-ib-を手に入れ
世界の破壊を誓う深瀬クロ。

ibである藤波木陰と諸木亮人が仲間になり
ひと時の安らぎを得たクロだったが
恋人である魔女が
敵対組織『COLORFUL』に
殺される。

その絶望にクロのibが暴走を始め――!?

――これは、誰かの替わりにしかなれなかった、悲しい願い。